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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Khomeyni Message—Accepting UN Resolution 598 was "more lethal for me than poison" but "I have drunk this for the sake of God's satisfaction," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni asserted in a message to the nation read over Tehran radio.

He stressed that acceptance of the resolution was a "very bitter and tragic issue for everyone," particularly for himself, for whom "death and martyrdom would have been more bearable." Noting that he had continued to believe in Iran's previous policy on the war until "a few days ago," Khomeyni disclosed that he was persuaded to accept the resolution and the cease-fire because of "some incidents and factors" which he will not elaborate on now but which will be made clear in the future.

The decision also reflected the views of "all" the country's leading political and military experts, he stated, adding that he considers it to be "in the interest of the revolution and of the system." Khomeyni said he would never have agreed to this change of policy if he had not been willing to sacrifice "honor and credibility" in the interests of Islam and Muslims.

However, Khomeyni warned that Iran's acceptance of the resolution "does not mean that the war has been resolved" and urged the Iranian nation to "be on your guard" against "tricks" and "aggression" by Iraq.

Iran is not employing "a new tactic" to continue the war, he said, but it must "not yet regard the issue as closed." All military personnel must continue their missions at the fronts and Iran's "revolutionary children" must maintain "hatred and revenge" for their enemies.

Khomeyni acknowledged that "certain individuals" may ask what was achieved by all the "blood, martyrdom, and self-sacrifice," but he contended that such people are unaware of "the unseen worlds and of the philosophy of martyrdom."

The course of events in no way harms a martyr's "eternal, everlasting, and exalted position," he claimed, adding that "the blood of the martyrs has definitely ensured the revolution and Islam." Khomeyni said he is personally "unhappy" to have survived and feels "ashamed in front of the greatness and sacrifices of this great nation."

Those who avoid making sacrifices for the war effort "will feel sorry on the day of judgment," he contended. Stressing that the conflict with Iraq is over ideology rather than borders, he said the loss or capture of territory is insignificant compared with "higher" goals.

On the internal situation in Iran, he told all "speakers, authorities, and responsible people" to ensure that they do not inadvertently serve as a "tool of extreme thoughts and beliefs" and he emphasized that "now is not the right time" to debate "why's and should-be's and should-not-be's."

Revealing that "nobody else and no other country" played a part in Iran's decision to accept a cease-fire, he urged the people not to blame the authorities for making this decision. On the future, he urged the people not to allow the revolution to fall into the hands of those who are "unqualified and alien."

Other parts of Khomeyni's message contained sharp attacks on Saudi Arabia over the hajj, as well as a call to continue struggling against the United States. "We must break the hands and teeth of the superpowers, especially the United States," he affirmed. He also warned the United States and the Europeans to leave the Gulf before they sink in a "quagmire of death," adding that "the children of the revolution may sink your warships to the bottom of the Persian Gulf."

Diplomatic Moves—Iran's rejection of an Iraqi proposal for direct talks between the two countries under UN auspices constitutes "rejection of the Security Council resolution and of the principle of bringing about a lasting and comprehensive peace," an Iraqi Foreign Ministry official claimed in a statement to INA 21 July.

The official contended that Iran's rejection of the Iraqi proposal violates Paragraph 4 of the UN resolution, which calls on both parties to cooperate with the UN secretary general in seeking a comprehensive, just, and honorable settlement.

Iran's rejection of direct talks was noted earlier by Radio Monte Carlo, which cited Iran's UN representative as saying that his country is cooperating with the secretary general to implement Resolution 598, but that the Iraqi plan has "nothing to do with this resolution."

The proposal for direct talks between the two countries was among five "practical steps" toward a comprehensive peace agreement suggested by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a letter to the secretary general carried by INA.

The proposals also included a request for the United Nations to clear the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and prepare it for navigation, as well as calls for an end to Iranian attacks on shipping in the Gulf and for guarantees of Iraq's rights to free navigation in the area.

Meanwhile, a letter from the secretary general to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati outlined plans to send UN technical teams to Baghdad and Tehran with a view to establishing a date for a cease-fire, IRNA reported. The agency also noted that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Tehran,

citing Vorontsov's remark that his country seeks to expand relations with Iran. **Military Situation**—An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio announced that Iraq's I Corps launched attacks against Iranian positions 20 July, capturing a number of Iraqi border peaks. Iraqi aircraft also launched further strikes against Iran, dealing "destructive blows" to two oil pumping stations.

Tehran radio confirmed that Iraqi forces attacked Iranian positions in the Mehran and Piranshahr regions, but claimed the offensive was "crushed." The radio also noted that Iraqi planes raided an "industrial" target in Khuzestan, inflicting damage.

Meanwhile, Iranian jets retaliated for earlier Iraqi raids by attacking Iraq's Dukan Dam with incendiary bombs, the radio said.

Saudi Arabia

A "responsible source" denied Iranian radio reports that pilgrims demonstrated in Mecca during the hajj, according to Riyadh radio. Calling the reports "totally unfounded," the source said the pilgrims' processions were "moving peacefully."

Tehran radio claimed that pilgrims, answering a call from Ayatollah Khomeyni, held a demonstration "in the midst of security forces." King Fahd told a Kuwaiti newspaper that "extra steps" were taken to provide security during the hajj, KUNA reported.

Israel

Territories—Three Palestinians were killed and six wounded during clashes with soldiers near Janin and Hebron 20 July, Jerusalem radio reported. The casualties occurred when IDF units opened fire on rioters and firebomb throwers.

Two more Arabs were killed and at least five wounded during disturbances in Nabulus the following day, according to another radio report.

Rabin Warning to Arabs—In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Arab leaders not to use missiles and chemical weapons against Israel, because Israel "will hit them back 100 times harder."

While stressing that Israel would win any war forced on it, he acknowledged that this would "exact a painful price."

Greek Ship Attack

A Greek official announced that police have identified the four terrorists who attacked the "City of Poros" cruise ship, Athens radio reported. One of the terrorists, described as the "leader" of the attack, entered the country on a Libyan passport, the official stated.

Libya

The arrest of Libyan students in Washington by the "CIA and the so-called FBI" was an "arbitrary repressive measure" and a "racist act of aggression," Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio contended. The U.S. Administration demonstrated its "savage attitude" toward Libyan students and proved that, despite its "boastful" statements on human rights, it practices "terrorism, repression, and human rights violations," the radio asserted.

Egypt

Mubarak Address—President Husni Mubarak made a speech on the anniversary of the 23 July revolution, which was broadcast live on Cairo radio. In the foreign policy sphere, he welcomed Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598, saying he hoped it would not be used as an "opportunity" for the sides to merely "catch their breath" and raise the war issue again. Mubarak said the war "looks like a feud, and they will not stop" fighting. He reiterated Egypt's support for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat but said the Palestinians have "internal problems" and "cannot agree among themselves." Mubarak described accusations by some Palestinian factions that Egypt's support is "restricted" as "annoying" and "wounding."

Overall, he described Egypt's relations with the world as "excellent" except for a "handful" of countries.

Speaking on domestic issues, Mubarak urged citizens to decrease their consumption, particularly of food, and said rising prices of imported foodstuffs is "beyond our control." In light of the country's economic problems, he emphasized the need to moderate population growth, calling families with 12 or 13 children "unjust" and "selfish."

Tabah Talks—Talks to settle the Tabah dispute will resume within 2 weeks in Cairo, MENA disclosed. U.S. and Israeli representatives will meet with Foreign Ministry officials who will stress that the "bottom line" is full recognition of Egyptian positions and Egypt's "complete sovereignty" over the area, the report stated. The resumption of talks will end "several weeks of bickering" over their agenda and venue, THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

Lebanon

"Informed sources" told Voice of Lebanon radio that Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 "may hasten Hizballah's military decline." The radio also cited an Israeli official as "confident that the ideological factor is weakening" in southern Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a Shi'ite scholar, called Iran's decision "wise and realistic" and said it will have "positive effects" in Lebanon, the radio reported.

The Al-Qubayyat area is "relatively calm" after a cease-fire agreement was reached 19 July, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In the south, UNIFIL troops and South Lebanese Army (SLA) members had a "serious clash" in the eastern sector of the security zone, IDF radio reported.

In the central sector, three Finnish soldiers were wounded when their vehicle struck a land mine, Jerusalem radio noted. Seven SLA troops were injured when "resistance fighters" shelled and strafed their vehicle on the Jazzin road, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Welcomes Iran's Recognition of 598

LD1907151788 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis 19 Jul (TAP)—The Arab League Permanent Secretariat has expressed "satisfaction" at yesterday's announcement by Iran to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate halt to its conflict with Iraq and the withdrawal of the the two belligerent sides' forces to internationally recognized borders. This is a resolution whose implementation the international community hopes will put an end to the Iraq-Iran war on all sides."

The Permanent Secretariat pointed out in a statement published in Tunis today that "The Arab League has consistently called for the implementation of such a resolution. The Arab seven-man committee and the Arab League Permanent Secretariat has done a great deal to see it adopted and Iraq accepted it as soon as it was adopted". It hopes, furthermore, that "efforts will be exerted for a speedy and full implementation of this resolution in a manner that would guarantee the belligerents' rights in accordance with international legitimacy and (? the bases) of international law and bring about peace to the Arab Gulf region as a whole.

The Permanent Secretariat added:" It sees [words indistinct] a good opportunity for the two Muslim and neighborly peoples to rebuild the bridges of trust between them, to rebuild what the war has destroyed, to achieve progress and prosperity for the peoples of the region, and the return of Iranian-Arab ties to their previous status."

Arabs Trying To Narrow Jordanian, PLO Views

JN1907081288 Paris AL-WAFAQ AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Jul 88 pp 1, 15

[Text] Official Jordanian sources have confirmed that certain Arab parties are exerting diplomatic efforts to bring together the viewpoints of Jordan and the PLO prior to PLO Executive Commitee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan this month.

The sources said that Jordan has defined its political constants on the Palestine question and the relationship with the PLO. They are the same constants announced by King Husayn to Arab leaders at last month's extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

The sources explained that the future relationship between Jordan and the PLO was defined through the constants that were communicated in detail to the parties that are exerting the diplomatic efforts.

The sources said that a senior Iraqi official, believed to be Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, visited the Jordanian capital last week and discussed the subject with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

The sources confirmed that King Husayn referred to Jordan's absolute backing for the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO, in securing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. He voiced support for the Palestinian uprising inside the occupied territory with all possible means so that it can achieve its objectives of Israeli withdrawal and enabling the Palestinian people to determine their destiny freely on their national soil.

The sources quoted the Jordanian king as saying that Jordan would agree to any decision made by the PLO concerning Palestinian representation at the international conference or to any efforts to settle the Palestine question. He also said that Jordan is ready to participate in the peace negotiations at an international conference within a joint delegation with the PLO, or as an independent delegation, or in a unified Arab delegation with Arab approval.

The sources stated that Jordan intends to take administrative and legal measures and make certain arrangements concerning the reorganization of its institutions in line with the political reality imposed by current circumstances and the relations with the PLO without affecting the historic relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

The sources expected 'Arafat to visit Jordan after the 'Id al-Adha feast in light of the results of Arab efforts between Jordan and the PLO.

King Husayn proposed in his speech at the Algiers summit three options to the Palestinians, saying that they should choose any of these options for determining their future relationship with Jordan.

The three options are: Continuation of the existing unity, the united kingdom plan, or the independent Palestinian state.

The Jordanian king said that Jordan would agree to what the Palestinians agree on and would choose what the Arabs and the Palestinians choose. However, Jordan has proposed its preferred option. King Husayn said in this respect that he believes that the united Arab kingdom plan, which he announced in 1972, is Jordan's preferred option.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Abu Sharif Says 391 Dead in 'Uprising'

JN2007200388 Baghdad Voice of the Masses 1700 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The number of the those who have been martyred during the valiant Palestinian uprising being staged in the occupied Arab territories has risen to 391 since the outbreak of this uprising in December.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, informed INA of this. He said: The Zionists have admitted that their fascist practices and their pursuit of the policy of violence have not checked the Palestinian people's resistance. Nay, they have admitted that these things have strengthened this people's resistance and that the means of resistance have become diversified.

PLO Document Issued on Presence in Lebanon

JN2007120088 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Jul 88 p 1, 17

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee last night concluded its meetings which started in the Tunisian capital last Friday.

In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said that one of the most important decisions taken by the Committee was issuing a document defining the nature of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as basically civilian and temporary, but one that should be maintained. It stressed that the camps should be rebuilt and that evacuees should be returned to them.

Hurani added that the document contains an assertion that the PLO does not oppose any security measures applied to the whole of Lebanon, but does object to those applied to the Palestinians only. However, the Palestinian presence in Lebanon does not mean that the Palestinians are excluded from any comprehensive security plan for this country. In addition, he confirmed that the PLO is not competing with anyone in Lebanon and does not wish to argue with anyone, but that the Palestinians in Lebanon should have the freedom of political and information action.

The Executive Committee member pointed out that the document affirms that the PLO will not be dragged into side battles which aim to abort the popular uprising inside the occupied Palestinian territories, the political results, and international interactions. For this reason, the PLO will hold contacts with the official and popular sides in Lebanon and with all Arab and friendly countries to prevent another battle.

The document also contained a clause which stated that the PLO will continue efforts to strengthen unity between the Palestinian factions in southern Lebanon to ensure the continuation of struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Hurani revealed that the Executive Committee decided to form many delegations to visit all Arab countries to follow up the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit held in Algiers recently politically and financially.

In reply to a question on reports that the Executive Committee looked into what is known as the Bassam Abu Sharif document, Hurani said: No one in the Executive Committee meetings suggested discussing the contents of Bassam Abu Sharif's article at all.

Fatah Council Issues Statement on Meetings

JN2007173288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Jul 88 p 17

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] issued a statement 9 days after the conclusion of its meeting in Tunis. The statement dealt with the camps situation and relations with Syria as well as the Palestinian uprising and the international conference.

The FRC resolutions did not differ from the PLO Executive Committee resolutions passed at a meeting in Tunis the day before yesterday.

The most important of the FRC resolutions stresses the need to preserve the civil rights of the Palestinian people in Lebanon in accordance with valid Lebanese laws, ensure the security of the Palestinian camps and protect them against attacks, especially Zionist attacks, and guarantee the Palestinian people's rights of waging armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

The FRC rejected the idea of an alternative homeland, given this idea is one of the Palestinian taboos and is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause forever. The FRC stressed adherence to independent Palestinian decisionmaking based on Palestinian legitimacy as enunciated by the resolutions of the successive PNC sessions and the Arab summits.

The FRC also rejected the policy of Arab axes and polarization in connection with the Palestinian oranizations and ruled out the possibility of establishing relations with one Arab country at the expense of another.

The Fatah Movement welcomed any Arab, allied, or friendly efforts to stop the war of the camps and rebuild the Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

OPEC Affairs

Non-OPEC Countries Also 'Overproducing'

LD1907105288 Vienna OPECNA in English 0939 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Medina, 19 July 88 (OPECNA)—Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita said that the current oversupply on the oil market was also a result of overproduction by a number of non-OPEC countries.

"One should not say that OPEC countries alone were overproducing," he told OPECNA Monday.

Ginanjar, now here to perform the hajj pilgrimage, held a two-hour meeting with Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham M. Nasir in Jeddah Sunday to review the current oil market situation "in depth".

"We came to the conclusion that a number of non-OPEC oil producers are now steeply pushing up their output," he said.

"We looked into all aspects of the current oversupply and we discussed several options to overcome the problems caused by overproduction," he said.

"We also agreed that as a first step all members should adhere strictly to their allocated national production levels," he added.

He said that another meeting with his Saudi counterpart was scheduled after the hajj pilgrimage.

Ginanjar said a meeting was also to be held between Nasir and OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto, who left Vienna Monday for Saudi Arabia.

Egypt

Mubarak 23 Jul Revolution Anniversary Speech

NC2007115388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0701 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak on the 36th anniversary of the 23 July revolution at the NDP Central Committee Hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Brothers and sisters: It pleases me, as I meet with you today, to begin by offering my greetings on the blessed 'Id al-Adha, praying to God to fill this day with blessings for Egypt, the Arab nation, and the Muslim world, and to guide us all to a happy future in which the revival of the Muslim nation is achieved, right gains victory, and peace is made universal.

'Id al-Adha coincides this year with the 36th anniversary of the eternal Egypian revolution. Three generations get together on the anniversary of the revolution: the generation which was born with the revolution, the generation which reached the early stages of youth with the outbreak of the revolution, and the generation which reached adulthood with the birth of the revolution. These three generations are the ones which are now enriching the various fields of public action. They are the generations which took over responsibility in the various stages of life, reconstruction, and development.

They are the generations which have lived and are still living the major events in Egypt. If daily needs make it hard for the recent past to stay fresh in people's minds, then we have to remember and recall in order to learn the lesson, benefit from experience, and carry on along the road. We must arm ourselves with a full awareness and deep understanding of our recent and distant past to get acquainted with our present and look forward to a bright future.

Brothers and sisters, we are together on the occasion marking the anniversary of one of the most important days in history. The heroes of that day made history. The makers of history who further the quality of the human structure change the course of events. They represent the people and derive the will to change from the aspirations of the people. Thus came the 23d day of July 1952.

This is what the vanguards of the Egyptian Armed Forces have accomplished under the leadership of departed leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir [applause], who was the revolution's thinking mind, its innovative and creative spirit, its flag carrier, and the pioneer of its principles under the most difficult conditions in Egypt.

Conditions in the country proceeded from bad to worse before the revolution. The Cairo fire incident took place on 26 January 1952. Anarchy prevailed, destruction spread, and the supremacy of law collapsed. Press censorship was imposed and thousands of citizens were arrested. Stability was shaken. The 6 months following the Cairo fire were a pitch-black period during which the state completely deteriorated. Four successive cabinets were formed in several months. They lost control of affairs. The regime's decisions fumbled. Nobody could tell what the future would be.

Under the circumstances, it was natural that the 23 July revolution should take place as an expression of an overwhelming popular will seeking light after darkness, justice after injustice, and a sound democratic life after the prevalence of corruption, after the collapse of parties which turned into whims of fancy, and after the parties exchanged accusations of violating the Constitution and destroying freedom. Indeed, the 23 July revolution was an expression of an overwhelming popular will demanding that Egypt be ruled by the sons of Egypt and insisting that this rule be based upon pillars of democracy, freedom, and justice.

On the other hand, the 23 July revolution came as an expression of the Egyptian people's insistence on rebuilding their Armed Forces after the imperialists had compelled successive Egyptian governments to limit their arms and restrict their actions in carrying out Egypt's leading role in this vital area of the world, particularly after the Armed Forces' splendid heroism in the 1948 war despite all the external fierce plots which sought to deal a fatal blow to the Arab nation and despite the harsh conditions under which our valiant Armed Forces were carrying out their heroic mission.

Undoubtedly everyone who lived in Egypt during this period realizes the extent of the deterioration and disintegration which prevailed in the country because of foreign domination and the parties' engagement in the struggle for power, as well as their neglect of the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people.

In fact, this previous era was not empty of swift glimpses of light, of bright and courageous uprising, or of daring nationalist revelations coming from the pioneers of honest strugglers and the free thinkers of the genuine nationalist personalities. Egypt's resources have never dried up and its generous soil has never turned barren throughout the ages. All this may have paved the way for the concepts and principles of 23 July and helped to solidify the revolutionary vision with the willpower of the Egyptian people for their benefit. The July revolution was not a new history which erases every other history.

As I have said repeatedly, the history of freedom, independence, and social justice in Egypt is a succession of rings or different stages of flourishing and stumbling. All these stages have witnessed a continuous nationalist action. For the sake of this action, the stages went through a constant struggle which reflected the fact that Egyptian patriotism is not exclusive to one team and national unity is the solid foundation from which battalions of Egyptian strugglers set out to add to our history the most magnificent and brightest

pages of eternal history. [applause] We are all the sons of Egypt. For the sake of Egypt we sacrifice even blood. Egypt is our mother which gave all its sons the honor of belonging to it.

Brothers and sisters, the revolution broke out, announced its principles, and achieved the greatest social shift in the history of the Egyptian regime on the human map. This is a fact that needs no further evidence.

The revolution played its pioneering role in the issues of peoples' liberation and the defense of human rights in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It was the example, the torchlight, the active dynamic power. No one can deny the role of the 23 July revolution in backing the revolution of any Arab or African people with all moral and material means. [applause]

Only an arrogant person can deny this and also deny the great human, financial, and business sacrifices. All these grave challenges were not an easy task. Rather, they were brave challenges to long-standing oppressive conditions and to international forces that relied on their well-established bastions and never once conceived that they would one day collapse. However, colonialism departed, thus achieving one of Egypt's basic demands and one of its great goals.

As it had its great glories, the 23 July revolution also naturally had its mistakes and stumbles. The wisdom of history has established that lofty glories are bound to be coupled with hurdles caused by radical changes and the need for them, as well as with fluctuations in the human mood. All of this has been proved by historical analysis, which is marked by neutrality, objectivity, and the assessment of all factors and domestic and foreign circumstances which accompanied the new process of construction.

On this occasion, I have a word to say to Egypt's intellectuals, to those who work in politics, and to writers who influence the public's thinking. I say to these citizens: There is no doubt that the 23 July revolution has been a great and influential event. Reviewing, analyzing and assessing this event as well as searching for its secrets, trends, composition, and effects are inevitable. However, it is an established fact that we are obliged to rise to the level of national responsibility when carrying out this task. National and scientific duty requires that this undertaking be objective and free from personal defamation and excesses, whether in dealing with mistakes or in justifying them.

This is an objectivity that must be free of the desire for self-glorification by assailing others and distorting historical facts. Patriotism requires us to do so. Thus, we will not defame ourselves, mangle our history with our own hands, or indulge in conflicts which will never benefit this homeland.

Every Egyptian who is honest and sincere in loyalty and affiliation must prove in word and deed that there are lofty national values worthy of fostering by thinkers for the sake of God and the homeland. You must take care of Egypt and the Egyptian people's history and struggle throughout the ages. [applause]

O brother citizens: Talk about the near and distant past is directly linked to talk about today and tomorrow. We live on Egypt's pure soil with full sovereignty over every inch of our holy land after our valiant Armed Forces achieved an immortal victory. Military circles throughout the world view this victory as a military miracle and a tremendous source of pride by all standards. The Egyptian Armed Forces have made long strides in handling the most advanced weapons, sophisticated technology, and high-standard training. These forces will always remain fully prepared to perform the sacred duty of safeguarding Egypt against any aggression, aware of their great role in this part of the world, which is rife with conflicts and tension.

We live on Egypt's pure land after peace has been achieved and dear Sinai has prospered with huge construction projects, agriculture, and tourism. Sinai has thus joined the link of progress throughout our dear land. In our talk about war and peace, we must recall with esteem and appreciation the heroic and historic role played by the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. [applause]

From the prime of his youth, this man gave his country the most splendid thing a brave struggler can give. His throbbing national sentiments have left a clear mark on his role in the 23 July revolution, in which he was one of the vanguards of its leaders and heroes. On Egypt's pure soil we live a free and democratic life that the Egyptian people have aspired to throughout their long struggle. It is a free and democratic life that upholds law, respects human rights, protects property, adheres to the basic goal of alleviating the suffering of the poor and low-income masses, and provides for citizens when they grow old and become unable to work.

The system of government today is a democratic one, removed from the methods of maneuvering, partisanship, and deception by slogans. It is a democratic rule based on a multi-party system. It believes in the greatest degree of self-expression and provides for everyone who has an opinion to declare his view through all legitimate channels. Thus the first lesson we learned after the social-building phase under the auspices of the 23 July revolution was that political democracy is essential for social democracy, that liberty means an individual's freedom of expression, just like his freedom to work, that a citizen's right to participate in making the decisions goes hand in hand with his society's obligation to provide him with a dignified life.

This is contingent on his willingness to contribute and to be dedicated in his work. The primary characteristic of liberty is that it releases the goodness, love, and purity in a person's conscience. It also brings forth a feeling for the suffering of others. These values then interact back and forth until they mix in a collective fabric that inspires the ability to give with creativity, innovation, and a cohesiveness among the sons of the one homeland irrespective of the various visions and views and the differences of creeds and ideas.

The people's right to know the facts is the cornerstone of their right to make decisions. Otherwise, how can the citizen participate in the decision-making process without knowing the facts? How would the people be able to make the correct decision if what they know is distorted, far from truthfulness, concealing the truth, and propagating deception? Hence, we have followed the principle of telling the people the plain facts regardless of how cruel the facts may be. This is our policy in submitting all problems to the people. It is the people who build, who pay taxes and shoulder the burdens, and who choose their representatives to the constitutional institutions. It follows, then, that they have the primary right to know the facts so that they may participate in making the decisions on all their issues of destiny.

The economic crisis has been, and continues to be the most important challenge we have encountered in the past few years. No one can say that the economic crisis is a purely domestic one, isolated from other crises, or that it is removed from the situation in the outside world. Absolutely not. No country, however strong and influential on the international scene, can isolate its economic structure from being affected by other international situations and economic developments everywhere in the world. Nor can it avoid the required accommodations irrespective of the differences in political creeds and systems of government.

The world has developed, as have economic theories, throughout this century, which is coming to a close. There is no longer rigidity or inflexibility of thought, nor are concepts confined to unchangeable molds. Experience has become the test which judges the credibility of theory and the correctness of application. Thus, we now witness remarkable progress in economic thought in its various aspects. The state reconstruction process is no longer held hostage by inflexibility and literal adherance to concepts which once applied, during a certain time and place, but which must now develop and respond positively to real scientific needs.

A living example from recent years is represented by fundamental changes developing in several socialist countries, moving toward economic openness and democracy. We have adopted the course of economic reform in Egypt with an open mind and following a thorough study of our domestic circumstances and an understanding of world economic trends. If we have problems they are the same problems all developing countries, without exception, are facing. I refer to the issues of foreign debt, which was inescapable due to development requirements, lack of resources, and the failure of production to meet the needs of reconstruction and local consumption.

We thank God that we have achieved some progress in relieving the debt burden at this stage. International organizations are still addressing this major issue within the framework of relations between developing countries and rich industrialized ones. The most recent event in this regard was the Toronto conference last month among the leaders of seven major industrial countries to deal with the issue of the debts of the poorest countries on the African Continent. This matter is still a priority at the international level in view of its serious effect on economic relations and fields of production and consumption in various world markets, particularly since the establishment of the concept of close relations and interdependence among various countries, big and small, rich and poor, advanced and developing alike.

On occasion throughout the past years, I have spoken to the people about our economic situation, its causes and effects, and on ways of rectifying the economic course. We have chosen the hard way, but the way that can tackle the roots of the economic problem and lay a strong foundation for a take-off. We did not hesitate to take up this national responsibility. We have made enormous achievements and established the infrastructure without which there could be no reforms or development. This cost us billions in national and foreign currencies.

These achievements have expanded to the fields of energy, transport, communications, sewage, drinking water, housing, refurbishment of factories, and many other utilities. We have made long strides in encouraging industrial and agricultural investments which no one can deny have helped fulfill the needs of consumption and export.

We still have a great deal to achieve in the second development plan. No doubt, the most serious obstacles facing us are the shortage of resources and production. We all know there is no alternative to increasing our production if we are to dispense with imports, which drain a great deal of our resources due to the exorbitant increases in world prices, which further burden the consumers. We will continue to do everything we can to subsidize staple commodities consumed by the vast majority of the people, although this commitment costs us a great deal.

I am pleased to state that there has been a visible improvement in most of the indicators we rely on to judge our economic situation. Rates of national income have increased compared with any other developing country. Likewise, the rates of investment and savings have risen, and exports, particularly unconventional ones, rose last year by almost 100 percent compared with past years. In addition, hard currency remittances from

Egyptians abroad have increased noticeably. Rumors by certain people that these remittances decreased last month are absolutely untrue. Thus, the crisis of foreign currencies has eased, although it has not completely disappeared.

All these phenomena prove that the Egyptian economy is improving, and forging ahead with solid steps, without shakiness or hesitancy. The experts assert that the continued efforts for development and reform will eliminate numerous problems of daily life for the masses. However, the big goal remains increasing production to compensate for the import of 65 percent of our food requirements and a nearly equal percentage of industrial requirements. This situation has had an obvious effect of raising prices, particularly since we began the policy of correcting the exchange rate, which is a basic and indispensable measure to correct the economic process.

Although this measure was necessary, it affected the cost of imports. Furthermore the international rise in prices extends to virtually all countries, even those countries capable of extensive production that fills the markets everywhere.

What always remains is individual responsibility, now that all facts are before us. What remains is the citizens' responsibility to participate actively in confronting the challenge, building, increasing production, finding their own solutions, and abandoning the desire to attain personal profit at others' expense. I must say something in this respect: Commerce is not merely a matter of profit, skill, and intelligence. Commerce is legal profit and honest administration of capital.

Every society has good and bad. If there are those who exploit their money to monopolize markets and raise prices in an artificial and calculated way, then the people's control, I repeat, the people's control, represented by the People's Assembly and the press, bear the responsibility for exposing this manipulating group, which must be punished. The state control of markets uncovers daily numerous cases of manipulation of the people's livelihood and refers the perpetrators to trial. The people's control, however, remains a necessary and basic factor in confronting this exploitation phenomenon. This is better than newspapers' spreading false reports about alleged government decisions to raise prices.

Brothers and sisters, the issue of the capital investment companies has been raised after a law organizing the function of these companies was issued. Frankly, in this law we took care to protect these companies and the depositors' money. You all know that the law was passed after exact and careful studies in which experts and specialists participated. This was done in numerous sessions during which laws passed by other countries to govern the functioning of this type of companies were reviewed.

I mention as example the United States, the FRG, Turkey, Italy, France, Kuwait, and others. These foreign laws include the provisions found in the law passed in Egypt, which also took into account Egypt's circumstances. Indeed some countries totally ban such activity. We do not object at all to the existence of these companies, nor do we oppose their continued activity. However, we set conditions demanding that they be disciplined and participate in the process of building the national economy, not destroying it. The law passed is for the good of these companies and the good of the depositors, under the auspices of the national economy. State control is imperative to safeguard these interests. It is the same control that is imposed on banks and insurance companies and for which a prior law had been issued many years ago. It is not new.

I appeal to these companies to strive to serve the national economy and the public interest, with which we are all concerned, while at the same time making the private profit to which they aspire. I also appeal to those people who try to sensationalize this issue, ignoring the security of national economy and spreading rumors detrimental to the citizens' interests. I repeat, I appeal to them to take a responsible stand and demonstrate that such issues are absolutely removed from partisanship, speculation, and one-upmanship.

Affairs that concern the homeland must not be dealt with negatively or by circulating slogans that do not benefit the construction process or help resolve the problems facing the country. The stages of earnest construction based on honest words and deeds require that everyone share their views, efforts, and solutions, taking into account the homeland's security, stability, and prosperity. Hard work does not need big words, flowery clauses, or maneuvers, which are inadmissible.

What counts are good intentions and work for the public interest. We aim only to achieve the public interest and safeguard stability at this stage of comprehensive construction that requires we all forge ahead selflessly toward our general goal. The arena of national action is open to everyone and welcomes every Egyptian, male or female, without restrictions or limitations.

All political forces are called upon to contribute views and solutions within the context of the provisions of the Constitution and laws by which we all abide. We do not ignore any views or notions proposed by any political trend. We measure things with one yardstick: the interests of the people and the homeland first and foremost, safeguarding stability, and pushing the wheel of national action forward. It is unwise to occupy ourselves and waste our energy in futile arguments about the crust rather than the core. I do not want to elaborate on this theme.

We have always respected opposing views, whether or not we were convinced by them. We have consistently committed ourselves to democratic practices within the

framework of the Constitution and law. We are engaged in an ongoing battle to build. Every Egyptian is a soldier in this battle. We do not cast doubt on anyone's patriotism. Every official in any political position, in the majority party or the opposition, must realize that the battle to build is one of giving, devotion to duty, and self-denial. It is a battle of hard work, accomplishments, and sacrifices. It is easy to trade words, but it is better to respond with selfless hard work for the sake of God and the homeland.

Brothers and sisters, inasmuch as we have been eager to achieve the goals of the pioneer Egyptian revolution at home, we have also sought to safeguard its achievements abroad. We have continued to consolidate its course among nations, taking into consideration the successive developments and changes in the international scene. The developments that occur in the last fourth of the 20th Century will leave an indelible mark on the world's future and fate.

I need not elaborate on the details of the international situation and on Egypt's foreign policy in the past few years, because you know them and place them within their sound framework and context. It will suffice to present to you certain remarks on several issues, not only external, that I know you are greatly interested in.

Regarding our foreign policy, for instance, before the revolution our relations with the West were excellent but not so good with the East. After the revolution, there were certain circumstances under which we severed our ties with the West and improved and even strengthened our relations with the East. After the October war, our relations with the West were strengthened and we differed with the East and other countries. Today, however, I say frankly that the circumstances are different.

Our ties with the East and the West, with Africa, the Arab countries, and Asia are excellent, except for a handful of countries for reasons that I do not want to talk about. These are Syria, Lebanon, and our brothers in Algeria. Every country has its own circumstances. I respect the leaders of these countries and it is a stage that will pass. As for Libya, may God help them. In Lebanon they are not to blame. You know the situation there and I do not want to discuss this issue or berate anyone. I appreciate the political, domestic, and external circumstances of every head of state. I pray to God to help us. This situation will not remain the same.

Regarding the problems in our region, Iran has declared its acceptance of Resolution 598. We welcome this but hope this is sincere and not an opportunity to catch their breath and then raise the issue of the complexities of the war all over again. As I see it, it looks like a feud, and they will not stop. I wish with all my heart, like any other peace-loving state in the world, that the situation will stabilize and the war will stop so that we can devote our efforts to the lives of the peoples who suffered from the bitterness of wars, bloodshed, and the loss of sons and brothers. This is a great tragedy.

As for the Middle East issue, you know all the circumstances. We have absolutely not lagged in our support of the PLO. On this occasion, I would like to state that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is very flexible. However, his problem is that they are unable to agree with him. The man's intentions are very good, but the Palestinians cannot agree among themselves. A PLO member, Bassam Abu Sharif—allow me, Sa'id, to say a few words—made an initiative, which you have read. He is the political adviser—I will give you the text if you like, don't write—he is the political adviser of PLO Chairman Brother Yasir 'Arafat. We have great respect for him and we support the cause.

I only blame certain things. He made a statement. I said good, this is fine. It is the PLO chairman's adviser. The following day, or 2 days later, the number two man in the PLO contradicted the statement. God, does everyone speak on his own, or what? Then the director of the PLO Political Department berated Bassam Abu Sharif's statement. They trampled the Abu Sharif initiative as if he lives alone on a secluded island.

Folks, why do you not agree? Without agreement among the PLO's various factions, how will the process go on? It is not possible. Why did the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement fail? Because they disagreed. After they agreed they disagreed again. All right, when? Had Israel been wise, it would say it was accepting an international conference. They will not agree on this issue, particularly the prime minister. They have internal problems. If he says I accept the international conference, the ball will be in our court and we will find ourselves in an awkward position. The pitfall is the following: Our PLO brothers must agree among themselves. That is why I call on them every time. Agree, unify your word if we are to make progress on the issue.

What annoys me is that despite the effort we are making, despite the activity we are carrying out for the sake of the Palestinian issue, despite what we have done to exploit the uprising for the good of the cause, the head of the PLO Political Department made a statement on 15 July. It was annoying, wounding. The press here speaks of the Palestinian issue all the time. We know, we have not forgotten. He said that Egyptian moves with regard to the Palestinian march are still slow and removed from Egyptian and Palestinian ambitions because these moves are restricted by the bonds we know of. What do you know about Egyptian ambition? Leave us alone to know our own ambition. God!

I want to tell him and every one of our PLO brothers who say such things that there are no restrictions on our moves. [applause] Everyone knows that nothing restricts our moves. Even the United States of America knows this well. It has never imposed any restriction on our

moves. Israel also knows this. Where did you get this talk about restrictions on our moves? What is this restriction? All that we have done, and then you say our moves are restricted? God! And our movement is slow? What will we do then?

I wish that instead of attacking Egypt and leveling accusations against it after all its great efforts, you would go and seek those who are killing you over there. I challenge him, he will not be able to say one word against them. [applause] He cannot attack the Arab country which is killing them when Egypt has not killed a single Palestinian. No Palestinian blood has been shed by Egypt. No one dares to say anything to those who are killing them over there, but when it comes to Egypt, witness what is happening. The Egyptian press supports them and they come and hurl invectives against Egypt. Egypt becomes the country to attack. I mean, there is a limit to everything. Despite all this, I salute Yasir 'Arafat, who is able to move about in such a difficult climate. [applause]

Let us move to the next point: domestic affairs. Whenever I deliver a speech what do the people say? Yes, by God, this is the first time we have experienced such openness about the economy. Fine, good. I must tell you things frankly. What will I say to you; will I deceive you? You have been going along for a long time believing the economy was in good shape. When I took over, I mean, God, it was my fate to work day and night, and I make you work day and night to rectify our economy for the coming generations. Some people ask why the president presents a black picture. God, do you want me to paint the picture white and deceive you?

I can make it look bright for a while, and then the true picture will appear and you will say: Why did we not know? We must tell you the truth so that we can all work. If I present you with a black picture it does not mean there is no hope. No, there is much hope, and we are following the right policy. Our economy is developing and improving. Still, you must know the facts, so I will not say the economy has improved, we have increased salaries, and the prices are...[and so on].

God no. You must know that the economy does not improve in a day, a night, or in 1, 2, or 3 years. The economy deteriorated and has been poor for 50, 60, 70 years. Do not come and ask me to solve things in a day. Let he who can solve them in a day tell us how. The process takes a long time. Furthermore, the trend [preceding word in English] is for high prices. I agree with you that there are high prices; but not all the prices we set are high. A few people are opportunists, and they raise prices. The people must help in this respect. We must be economical in our consumption, particularly those who are well-off.

Say someone is eating watermelons, and he has a good appetite so he eats one, two, or three watermelons. A watermelon costs 12 pounds. Why do you buy two watermelons? You go to a fancy store and buy a watermelon for 12 pounds and then complain that it costs too much. If you have 12 pounds to pay, then keep quiet and do not talk. You can buy watermelons from vendors with carts for less. Must you act big, go to Al-Zamalik and other expensive districts with fancy stores, and ask for a watermelon? The man asks for 12 pounds, and perhaps that is all you have. You pay the 12 pounds, leave, and then complain aloud. Do not buy a watermelon.

Will we die if we do not eat watermelons? Watermelons are expensive early in the season. There are 5,000 watermelons in the market and 50 or 40 million people who want them. Of course the merchant will raise the price, until the watermelon costs even 50 pounds. Do not buy it, and he will be forced to sell it or let it rot.

You will not die if you do not eat watermelon, or bananas, or things like that. There are other basic things. We eat more than necessary. It is our nature. Listen to any family having a conversation and it is all about food: filets, meat, barbecue, cheese, and so on. When we sit together we talk only about food. A gathering is not satisfactory unless we are eating.

The government has a role, and it is working hard to deal with exaggerated prices. The citizens, however, have a big role [preceding word in English], more important than that of the government. The government is dealing with numerous issues and is trying hard. The citizen, however, must help. Look at England and the United States. The United States used to have the lowest food prices in the world. Its ambassador is sitting here now. Today it is very expensive. This does not defend rising prices here, but if you think prices are rising only here, go and see Europe, those of you who can travel, and see the prices there. Some may respond that they raise salaries there along with the prices. God, salaries do not increase as much as you think in relation to prices.

Nor is their way of eating like ours. Because a loaf of bread is cheap here one of us goes to the bakery and asks for 10 loaves. The baker has no change, so the customer says: Make it 25 loaves. Come back later for the change instead of buying 25 loaves. Then they eat 4 loaves and throw 20 in the garbage can. Who will follow up such matters? The government? This is the case when it is a question of 20 loaves. And then someone buys 2,000 or 3,000 loaves from the bakery to feed his goats, and the citizens see him. Do you expect me to have government control in every house and bakery? The citizens see this, and no one speaks.

In other countries, socialist countries, no one dares buy more than he needs. Should one dare buy more than he needs...[sentence incomplete as heard] It happened with me. I once bought more than I needed and was sternly criticized by people in a queue. I pretended I did not understand their language, though I understood what

they were saying. I was embarrassed and said I was buying for my friends. No one buys as much as we do. I mean those who can afford to buy, not everyone.

Certain people say prices are high now. I want to give you an idea about prices next year. I am not saying this so that you write headlines saying that the government wants to increase prices. No, I just want to give you an idea about what we are going to face and what is going to happen. Take wheat, for instance. It has not rained in the United States, and this will affect us because we import U.S. wheat. There has been drought in other wheat-producing countries. We used to buy a ton of wheat for approximately $70 to $82. In June the price soared to $110, and in July $149.

Next year, when the results of the drought become clear and quantities decrease, the price will reach $240 or $250 per ton, as the price was 7 or 8 years ago. At the current price of $149, we will have to allocate $249 million more from our budget for wheat: 576 million pounds. This is a burden on our budget. Yet we are feeding our bread to goats and dumping it in garbage bins. Our garbage is full of bread, vegetables, fruit, and everything.

Take corn, which we do not subsidize but which squeezes our hard currency. Last year we imported 6.4 million tons of wheat and 1.9 million tons of corn, which we used as cattle fodder. The price of a ton of corn was $84. I am telling you these figures to show you how the government struggles to ensure subsidies of staple commodities. In July the price of a ton of corn rose to $132, and this price is bound to rise. So the government will have to pay $108 million more. Take cooking oil: a ton used to cost $458. In July that ton soared to $790, an increase of over $300.

The price increase for the 540 tons we import will total $179 million: 413 million pounds. Wheat and cooking oil are staple commodities that we subsidize. Should we seek the advice of well-off economists they might urge the daring step of abolishing subsidies. But this is hard to do [words indistinct].

We import 400,000 tons of sugar. The price of a ton of sugar was $171, but in July it increased to $270. This increase will cost the state budget 91 million more pounds. According to the July prices the state budget will have to allocate 1,080 million more pounds. I am saying this so that you can realize how heavy the burden is. The prices of many other commodities will increase. When the price of a ton of wheat increases by $1, the government pays $14 million for its wheat imports. The prices of tea and frozen meat will increase. The government will have to pay the increases on subsidized commodities. In just three commodities the state will have to pay 1,080 million pounds more this year. We will see how we manage to obtain these funds.

I wish this were all we had to deal with. Even oil production and prices are not in our favor. Until June a barrel of oil sold for $14; now it sells for $12.75. A decrease of $1 in price means our income decreases by $58 million. If the price drops to $11 a barrel we will lose another $58 million. According to today's prices, we have lost $115 million: 267 million pounds. This entails increased prices for staple commodities and decreased resources.

What can we do? Nothing, it is beyond our control. I am just telling you how the rise in prices affects us. Unless we do something to reform our economy coming generations will suffer. We are in the process of economic reforms. When one is very sick one has to take medicine. A medicine might be bitter, but we tolerate it for our future. This year we began taking a bitter medicine and must bear it. We are doing our utmost to find a solution to the greedy increase in prices with the help of citizens.

As for those who say that we must stabilize prices, I tell you frankly that neither I nor anyone else can stabilize them. How can I when I import commodities from abroad, where the price incerases from 50 to 100 [unit not specified]? Can I sell it at 20 and subsidize the difference? There would come a time when all our resources would be spent on subsidies.

Some countries have lowered salaries. Some well-off countries have lowered salaries. Here in Egypt we have not done so. Those countries lowered salaries despite rising prices. We did no such thing. We must all work, contribute to economical consumption, and control greed in price setting. When someone in Europe exploits the occasion of the new year and tries to raise the price of a turkey from $5 or $6 to $20, housewives stop buying. On one occasion turkeys began rotting, and then sellers began looking for customers to buy the turkeys for even $2. This is why I say women have a big role to play in economical consumption and price control.

This is not the only issue. Let us discuss a problem which we now take lightly. If we do not stress this problem now, for the sake of the future, the time will come when, whatever efforts we make toward development, our children will sleep in the streets, will find nothing to eat, and will starve. The issue is population. When we speak of family planning some people claim that foreign countries are spending money in order to decrease the number of Muslims. What do you mean, decrease the number of Muslims? One should be reasonable. Follow your religion and you will not have more children. When someone has 12 or 13 children he is being unjust to someone who has only 2 or 3 children.

God, 12 or 13 children! You are selfish. You have 12 or 13 children, and you cannot feed them. You throw them into the streets. This worked when the population was small.

Just to give you the picture, our population in 1976 was 36.6 million. In 1986 it was 50 million, an increase in 10 years of 13.8 million [figure as heard]. This figure equals the population of a big country or several countries. In 10 years we produced the equivalent of several countries' populations. Fine. O God, we are masters in these matters. Why? The projected population for 1995, 7 years from now, is 61.3 million. Whatever economic development we achieve, we cannot keep up with the numbers: 1.3 million every year. Whatever development we achieve the new generations eat it up. We cannot find schools for them, nor can we provide medical treatment or food.

We are running a race in agriculture and industry. We are running as hard as we can. Still, have mercy on the coming generations, have mercy on your country. Follow religion. We are not objecting to this. We will number 80.8 million in 2005. In 2020 we will number approximately 122 million. Now you will say who will live until 2020? May God give you a long life, so that you will begin making calculations for it from now.

These are frightening numbers, and no matter how much we develop we will not be able to keep up. Therefore, we must face this factor, and everyone must observe his own family planning so that we may be able to provide a dignified life for future generations, instead of committing a crime against them right now.

Perhaps you share my view that our near and far future is full of light and bright with hope, so long as we work devotedly and conscienciously. However, lights do not shine with great hope unless we direct ourselves with a sincere effort toward devoted work. The attempt to turn out the lights and extinguish the torches is a call for groping in the dark. The people refuse, demanding to live in the light.

Slogans intended to frustrate and dishearten the people, uttered by certain individuals under the pretext of seeking the good of the people, are a ploy of the weak and helpless. No one can deceive our enlightened and great people. Pressure tactics and empty outcries are but dust that will dissipate, because our atmosphere is healthy, our rule decent, and our words straightforward. The decent people will always triumph, and the advocates of right will be the victorious knights of the battle. True we are suffering, but we live through this suffering because we are building, not wasting our time. Indeed, we are confronting difficulties in our daily life, but we are uprooting these difficulties, not seeking sedatives or using intoxicating slogans. We are assuming our huge responsibilities and heavy burdens with the proper commitment to this and coming generations.

We will not lay down our arms in our battles for building and development, ensuring a decent life, and making happy families. Battles can be won only by those who fight with honor and courage, hoisting flags of right, truth, and dignity. There is no place for cowards, defeatists, or imaginary heroes among those who are forging ahead, making courageous sacrifices.

Men do not flee battles, and unending will be our battles to increase production and incomes, ensure medical care for the people, build houses, ensure job opportunities for every able individual, and build our national economy on sound bases. These battles will continue, and we will not be diverted by huge obstacles and difficult impasses. We will forge ahead and crush the rocks one-by-one according to integrated planning that prioritizes and determines coordination and timing. There is no problem not being addressed. Solutions are not enigmas or riddles, they require only great resources. We are trying with all our means to make these resources available by careful spending of public funds, rational expenditures, and location of new resources.

Those who think this can be achieved within a short period are mistaken; those who circulate rumors that we are at a dead end are guilty; and those who follow the path of destruction, promote anarchy, shirk duty, and prevent honest people from working are enemies of the people and the homeland.

We harbor no ill will toward anyone. We do not lie in wait to find faults and catch mistakes. We call on everyone to enter a sphere of goodness, cooperation, and sharing of burdens. We overlook numerous excesses with profound patience and a great hope that all hearts will beat with a sincere awakening and a national commitment to achieve prosperity. It will be prosperity for all of us if it comes. The victory will be for all of us if we adhere to truth and duty. We are not speaking of the people's sufferings and troubles while sitting in ivory towers or enjoying sumptuous luxury. Absolutely not.

We are the sons of the villages and quarters where the masses live. We are the sons of hardship in all the stages of our lives. The masses' troubles and daily problems are our first and last concern. We will enjoy no respite or tranquillity unless we work hard all hours of the day and night to alleviate burdens, relieve concerns, and open the way for every constructive step toward a better life.

We experience with all our thoughts and feelings the suffering of young people, and we call on them to carve a way regardless of the difficulties. We call on young people to understand that everything we are achieving in the present—building, renovation, establishment, construction, and plans for the future—is for the young people of tomorrow. How can we create job opportunities without increased investments and production? How can we prepare the young for a professional life without a revolution in education that will provide bigger and wider opportunities for young people? How can we assist the young to live a full and rich life if those who are capable do not come forward and contribute their own solutions in all places of work?

The battles follow each other, and the problems are entangled. The will to work and build will triumph. A little patience and sacrifice and a lot of confidence in ourselves and our abilities are the call of the sincere in the sphere of work.

We have opened many doors and windows that had been tightly closed. We have lit many torches that had been extinguished. We have destroyed many barriers. The victorious march will not stop. Our economic revival is the result of our democratic revival. Democracy prospers as culture, arts, and literature flourish. Culture is a primary weapon in the battle. Fine arts nourish hearts to remain steadfast in the battle. High art is the torch that lights the path to a great victory.

Those who assume the great responsibility of culture, primarily thinkers, artists, and writers, are the pioneers in the renaissance battle. They struggle to deepen noble values and principles and motivate their generation toward great aspirations and augur a happy and bright future for toilers and strivers.

Every citizen in every post, be it high or humble, must participate in this march. The 23 July revolution was one of all Egyptians. The revival we are building today is the revival of and for all Egyptians. [applause] I ask God almighty to unify us, purify our hearts, and strengthen our will for revival and change. Verily, never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves.

Happy 'Id al-Adha, and may God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Ministry Withdraws Draft Investment Rules

PM2007163588 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 19 Jul 88 pp 1,2

[Ahmad al-Suyufi report: "The Government Backs Down in Face of Threats by Investment Companies"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that there is an inclination at the Economy Ministry to provide for more facilities to be included in the regulations implementing the investment companies law due to be announced directly after the 'Id [Muslim feast falling on 24 July]. The ministry rejected the regulations drafted by the stock exchange board and published by a government paper.

Economic circles believe that the regulations were published as a trial balloon to sound out the investment companies and public opinion, particularly after the shock to the banks of the revelation that Egyptian and free currency deposits over the past 2 months were 70 percent less than in the same period in previous years. That has prompted the Economy Ministry to try to reassure the market and restore confidence.

AL-SHA'B has also learned that the chiefs of some investment companies recently held contacts to discuss the new draft regulations published recently after some companies threatened to go into liquidation, protesting that the aim of the published draft was to impose more restrictions on the companies.

Security reports submitted to President Mubarak recently said that, if some companies went into liquidation, the security situation in the country would be threatened and the people's anger might be directed at the government.

The security forces sealed off the pyramids road over the past 2 days after thousands of depositors gathered in front of the central office of the Al-Rayyan company demanding their money back, blocking traffic, and shouting slogans calling on the government to keep its hands off the companies.

Tension between the depositors and the security forces increased after rumors that the central bank had refused to honor an Al-Rayyan cheque for 5 million pounds, which the Al-Rayyan company intended to pay out to the depositors at 1 percent on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha.

Investment Company Depositors File Lawsuits

PM2107083988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 88 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Three Thousand Depositors Urge Custodianship on Investment Companies' Properties In Egypt"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that 3,000 depositors with investment companies in Egypt have filed urgent lawsuits with Egyptian courts to impose custodianship on the assets and properties of these companies and to appoint a committee of depositors to run them.

The North Cairo Court has decided to look into these lawsuits before court 7, which deals with urgent cases. Court officials have informed the companies' chairmen and officials of the lawsuits. At the same time the depositors have filed lawsuits to question the companies. These will be examined 25 October before commercial court 25 of the North Cairo Court, where the companies will be questioned about the results of their operations over recent years. An arbitration committee will be formed according to the stipulations of the contracts of deposit concluded with these companies.

The depositors sent a letter to the shaykh of al-Azhar asking him to appoint a scholar to the arbitration committee, and another letter to Councillor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr, justice minister, asking him to appoint a committee comprising experts and advisers from the ministry in order to participate in the proceedings of these committees.

Meanwhile, some depositors have launched an appeal via the Egyptian press to all depositors, urging them to join in these lawsuits and authorize some lawyers to defend them on the basis of the receipts and contracts of deposit available and according to legal power of attorney.

Lawyer Ahmad Nabil Salim Abu 'Alam, who has been entrusted with the cases and lawsuits of the depositors, emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the depositors with these companies, according to the contracts of deposit and legal stipulations, are common partners and thus have the right to ask for the imposition of custodianship on the properties of these companies, on the grounds that these properties are theirs, because of violations committed by these companies in investing their money and also because the companies now intend to liquidate their operations and then deal with the depositors on the principle of [sharing] profits and losses.

This means that the depositors will lose money if the assets of the companies are valued now. The owners of the companies are not currently qualified to run the funds, and custodianship means preserving the depositors' funds until they are recovered.

Some of the depositors involved in these cases emphasized that they now blame themselves for depositing their money with these companies and that they have made the biggest mistake of their lives. They have no option but to turn to the judiciary in order to recover their money, especially as the law passed recently to organize the situation does not guarantee them recovery of these funds or deposits. But they have confidence in the Egyptian judiciary.

'Official Source' Denies Joint Force Report

JN2007170488 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jul 88 p 21

[Text] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, an official Egyptian source has denied a Western newspaper's report of the formation of a so-called rapid deployment force by Egypt and Jordan with financing from Saudi Arabia. The source said: "The reports published by the U.S. newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL regarding this subject are untrue." He added: "Egypt does not participate in, and will not join anybody in a rapid deployment force."

Talks With Israel on Tabah 'Within 2 Weeks'

NC2007180788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Representatives from Egypt, Israel, and the United States will meet in Cairo within the next 2 weeks as part of efforts aimed at settling the Tabah dispute.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, will represent Egypt at the meeting, while the Israelis will be represented by Avrahim Tamir, their Foreign Ministry director general, and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

MENA has learned that the bottom line Egypt will stress during the meeting, which was proposed by Israel, is the full recognition of the Egyptian positions in Tabah, as well as Egypt's complete sovereignty over the area, with all the indisputable connotations the term sovereignty may evoke.

MENA has also learned that, based on the above, Egypt is ready to discuss any proposals and consider any arrangements that do not directly or indirectly infringe upon Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah. In the meantime, arbitration procedures will continue as planned.

Libya

Tripoli Radio on U.S. Arrests of Students

LD2107021488 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The U.S. Administration has carried out another racist act of aggression against Libyan Arab students studying in the United States. This action is part of a pattern of enmity toward the Libyan Arab people.

Elements from the CIA and the so-called FBI stormed the headquarters of the Committee of Libyan Arab Students in Washington and arrested them in an arbitrary repressive measure. This confirms the base and immoral manner characterizing U.S. Administration officials even in their dealings with students.

This new racist attitude adopted by the U.S. authorities toward Libyan Arab students constitutes another terrorist step taken by the U.S. Administration against those students. Previously it had adopted a similarly racist measure by preventing Libyan Arab students from studying nuclear science and space in the United States and by expelling them from there.

This savage attitude disproves once again the boastful statements which the U.S. Administration makes about democracy and human rights and it confirms that it has become in reality an administration of terrorism, repression, and human rights violations.

Sudan

Al-Mirghani Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM1907080788 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Jul 88 p 16

[Interview with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Mahjub] A 4-year development plan was announced in Sudan with a view to achieving Arab food security. What has been achieved so far under the plan?

[Al-Mirghani] The appropriate authorities have completed the final draft of the 4-year program for salvation, reform, and development, which we hope will ensure economic advancement in the country. We are facing major challenges which must be overcome in order to extricate the country from its economic crisis and achieve development and progress. We hope, God willing, to be able stimulate the production process and protect current economic projects. There is hope that these will lead to the achievement of Arab food security, thus meeting the Arab nation's need for food.

[Mahjub] There are four problems between you and the southerners, namely religion, politics, pan-Arab affiliation, and resources. How can foreign powers be prevented from interfering so you can end these problems and reach an agreement preserving Sudan's national unity?

[Al-MirghanI] I said previously that the problem of southern Sudan is purely an internal Sudanese problem. We, both north and south, are eager to resolve the problem within the framework of Sudanese unity and cohesion. That is why keeping foreign powers out of the issue is a preliminary step toward a final solution to it. We hope that this year will witness the achievement of this objective, namely, sitting down at the negotiating table to conduct a national democratic dialogue. And we shall do so, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] What stage have Sudanese efforts reached with the IMF in connection with the rescheduling of Sudan's debts, and what role do Western funds play in this regard?

[Al-Mirghani] Dialogue in this regard will continue this year. Last year we presented a working paper on rescheduling the debts owed by the African states and the Third World, and the need to take into consideration development conditions there by giving priority to the humanitarian aspect. We are still maintaining this approach. Obviously, Arab funds have a role to play in this, and we hope they will respond to us in order to overcome these difficulties. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] How do you view Sudanese-Egyptian relations, and is there anything new with regard to the brotherhood treaty and the joint defense agreement between the two countries?

[Al-Mirghani] Sudan's relations with Egypt are eternal and deep-rooted. We are eager to develop these immortal relations in the interests of the people of the great Nile Valley.

[Mahjub] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak made a brief visit to Sudan recently. What were its characteristics and results, and did it have anything to do with the problem in the south?

[Al-Mirghani] Brother President Husni Mubarak's visit to Khartoum took place within the framework of a mutual exchange of views which is in the interest of both fraternal countries. It was aimed at strengthening joint cooperation in all fields and exchanging views on various problems in the region. It was a successful working visit.

[Mahjub] How are Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, and how can these be improved?

[Al-Mirghani] Sudan is most eager to maintain good and developing relations with its neighbors on the basis of good-neighborliness. Our relations with neighboring Ethiopia are improving and on the way to normalization. An Ethiopian technical delegation visited Khartoum recently. And the prime minister met recently with the Ethiopian leader at the African summit conference. All these moves are aimed at normalizing relations in the interest of both peoples.

[Mahjub] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has proposed a meeting between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Ethiopian president, and Garang in Cairo. What is your opinion of this proposal, and have practical steps been taken in this matter?

[Al-Mirghani] Obviously we support any efforts at restoring stability in the region. No one rejects peace, especially as both stability and peace are the right road to development, which is what we are seeking. We welcome any endeavors aimed at achieving peace. [Passage omitted]

Former Anya Nya II Leader Reportedly Jailed

JN2007190388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jul (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have received confirmed information that the rebel Gordon Kong Chol, former leader of Anya Nya II, who fled and joined Garang's movement during the past months, is now jailed in an outlaw prison in the the Bulgam [name as received] area, which is one of the main centers of the outlaws.

The reports mention that Gordon Kong Chol and a number of officers who support him were arrested following acute differences with John Garang, leader of the SPLM.

A military spokesman said that this arrest has caused discontent among the group that defected from Anya Nya II and joined Garang's movement. To absorb this discontent, the outlaws' leadership announced that Gordon Kong Chol has been appointed a commander and alternate member of the political and military command. This appointment is meaningless because most of the unit commanders in the movement hold this title.

Reports also mention that discontent is increasing among Anya Nya II dissidents in various areas. It is is expected that this will cause a new armed conflict in the movement.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Purchase of Soviet Arms

JN1607164688 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14-15 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

["ARAB TIMES report"]

[Text] Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said yesterday that Kuwait had ordered 245 armoured personnel carriers (APC's) of the BMP 2 type from the Soviet Union in an arms purchase deal signed last Saturday.

He declined to put the figure to the contract but diplomats in Kuwait estimate that the cost per vehicle ranges between $500,000 and $1 million. A Kuwaiti daily has put the value of the entire deal at US $300 million

Shaykh Nawwaf was speaking to reporters at the airport where he bid farewell to the departing British defence secretary, George Younger.

Diplomats in Kuwait said that the Soviet BMP 2 APC's are beyond any doubt valuable equipment which Kuwait's military had wanted for years.

"They are the traditional strong armoured vehicles used by Warsaw Pact forces," a European diplomat said.

The deal with the Soviets was struck after two years of negotiations and testing and following some hesitance on the part of Kuwait.

It is believed that there have been several bidders for the sale of APC's as they are not considered to be sophisticated equipment and are manufactured in many countries.

Diplomats presume that the latest Kuwaiti-Soviet arms deal is cash transaction although the Soviets are known to have offered weapons on credit to countries such as Syria and Egypt.

The Soviet prices are regarded as extremely competitive but diplomats also speak of a "political price" when other than commercial gains are expected from an arms sale.

Kuwait signed an arms deal with Egypt last month which reportedly includes the purchase of about 100 Egyptian-built APC's.

PDRY

Interior Minister on 'Ali Nasir, Ties With YAR

JN1907203788 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Jul 88 p 19

[Interview with Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, YSP Political Bureau member and deputy prime minister and interior minister, by 'Adnan al-Rashid—place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Rashid] What are the latest news and activities of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, given his current moves against your regime?

[Al-Siyayli] All the antiparty and counterrevolutionary forces that have appeared over the past years have been defeated. In 1967, some people created confusion for 6 months but ended up as shopkeepers. They ceased to be politicians. The same thing happened in 1972.

Muhammad 'Ali Haytham and his group fled and created confusion for 6 months. They ceased to trade in the national cause and ended up as real traders with shops in many places. The same thing occurred in 1978. Some fled during our struggle, and we lived in confusion for 5 months, but eventually they ended up like the others.

'Ali Nasir also created confusion in 1985. We think that he has already started to fall as a trader in politics. We must learn from experience that whoever leaves his country and homeland loses his connection with them. Therefore, regardless of his resources outside his homeland, he cannot return because he has no base.

If a man flees and leaves his base, he will cease to operate on the level of confrontation. Ali Nasir was the head of the government, party, Army, and security apparatus. He fled and left behind all these centers of power. How can he return with none of them?

As a practical matter, he cannot return. Such leaders have proved to be failures. Had they been able to to make sacrifices, they would have struggled and maintained hopes of restoring their control. By fleeing the homeland, they have ceased to exist politically. This is proved by our nation's history from 1967 until now. This is also borne out by people's experience everywhere.

'Ali Nasir is now moving from one area to another, trying to beg for sympathy and money. People may give him assistance based on humanitarian considerations, but this will not last. It will only be for a limited period of time.

He is now powerless, and his threats are hollow. If we go back to recent history, we find that since 13 January 1986, he has threatened to return more than 20 times and fixed dates for his return. He has never succeeded in carrying out his threats. Will he be able to carry out the 21st threat? This is illogical and his latest threat will be just like the ones that preceded it.

[Al-Rashid] Is there any agreement or attempt to reach agreement in the field of security to resolve security issues between the two countries?

[Al-Siyayli] We are making efforts in this regard and emphasizing to our brothers in the northern part of the homeland that we should help each other in protecting laws and regulations in both countries, such as dealing with fleeing robbers.

We must agree on the principle that this robber, regardless of whether he is an individual or a company, should realize that he will lose if he steals. Such a person should be tried. If a father refuses to pay for his child's living according to law, we must agree that this father should be responsible for that child.

If a person kills another, we must reach agreement that such a person should be responsible for his actions. This can be accomplished by an agreement on exchanging criminals. Regrettably, we have so far not reached an agreement on this subject.

On travel, we have agreed on the bases of identity cards and made efforts to overcome the people's difficulties. However, if someone commits a crime in one of the two Yemens, we will have to contact the international police to contact the other part of Yemen to extradite him.

There is a great contradiction between our views on unity and our handling of such issues. I have already said that the issue is not one of movement across the border but has deep ramifications in the political, security, economic, and military fields.

We must take steps to promote unity. What is the use of having movement across the border and failing to have someone who committed a murder extradited from the place to which he fled? We admit that there are political and other problems. But we want to agree on criminals on whose crimes everyone agrees. We hope that our brothers in northern Yemen respond to us in this regard. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Returns From Visit to Europe 17 Jul

JN1707192888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Doha, 17 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifa ibn Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, returned to Doha from Europe tonight.

At the head of those receiving him was His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al-Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense. Also receiving the amir were shaykhs, ministers, Consultative Council speaker and his deputy, ministries' undersecretaries, Consultative Council members, and senior civilian and military officials.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Hajj, Security in Mecca

Tehran Reports Demonstration

LD2007202888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] In response to the call by the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, pilgrims to the house of God participated in a demonstration today in the midst of security and police forces of the regime ruling over Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], close to the house of God chanting: death to the United States, death to the Soviet Union, and death to Israel. We will carry a more detailed report in a later newscast.

Riyadh Denies Report

LD2007231088 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Denying a REUTER dispatch from Nicosia stating that Iranian television announced this evening that pilgrims had demonstrated in Mecca, and shouted death slogans against certain states, a responsible source told SPA:

The report broadcast today by Tehran television confirms what is being said by observers—that the Tehran rulers have lost all sense of shame, even with their own people, people who have lost trust in their rulers, and especially their leader, who today issued threats which were ridiculed by all.

The source added "The Tehran television report about a demonstration in Mecca today is totally unfounded, as not a single person has demonstrated in Mecca since the start of the hajj season. The pilgrims' processions are moving peacefully, thanks to God's care and guidance."

The source ended his statement by saying: Had such a demonstration taken place, we would have confronted it and reported it. This is evidenced by the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to God's holy house who were in Mecca today.

Minister on Hajj Security

JN2007204688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Jul 88 p 18

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by Sulayman al-'Ali in Mecca; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Ali] Does the Saudi Government intend to apply the Saudi security system on its territories against anyone who commits acts of rioting or smuggling weapons or explosives during the hajj season?

[Prince Nayif] The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques gives special attention to the issue of security and stability in general, and the security of the hajj in particular. For this reason, it will apply Islamic laws against anyone who is tempted to violate and encroach on the hajj security, no matter what his nationality may be.

According to Islamic laws, people are equal, and no breach in this regard will be tolerated. From this premise, the cabinet issued its resolution on 23 June 1988 to affirm this stand.

[Al-'Ali] Iranian leaders may not abide by the ICO's foreign ministers' conference. They may send pilgrims in larger numbers than allocated to them. What will be the Kingdom's position then?

[Prince Nayif] As you know, the Iranian leaders have made a decision not to allow their citizens to perform the hajj duty. We regret this. But, if the Iranian leaders decide to allow their citizens to perform the hajj, the Kingdom will only allow pilgrims in according to the quota set for Iran, on equal footing with other Islamic countries.

There shall be no exception for any country, be it Iran or any other, in the implementation of the resolution of the ICO's foreign ministers' conference, which was held recently in Amman.

[Al-'Ali] Iranian leaders are trying to issue resolutions to prevent their pilgrims from performing the hajj for this year. What is your highness' comment on this move?

[Prince Nayif] As you know, the Iranian Government's prevention of its citizens from performing the hajj duty is a breach of the teaching of the true Islamic relegion. We hope that our Muslim brothers in Iran, who really intend to perform the hajj duty, will be able to do so in the future.

[Al-'Ali] Tehran claimed that the Saudi Government's decision to postpone Turkey's representation of Iran until after the hajj is one of the main reasons for Iran's preventing its pilgrims from performing the [hajj] duty.

[Prince Nayif] This is untrue. The Tehran rulers are using this allegation to justify the prevention of their citizens from performing the hajj duty.

[Al-'Ali] What does the Iranian regime want?

[Prince Nayif] If the question means: What does Khomeyni's regime want from its persistance in having pilgrims commit riots and sabotage in the holy places, then the answer is that he aims to ruin and damage the hajj, terrify the pilgrims, and achieve pesonal gains for some of the ruling figures in Tehran.

[Al-'Ali] Are there any non-Iranian agents who may execute the Iranian regime's plots of riots, sabotage, and terrifying pilgrims during the hajj season?

[Prince Nayif] This is possible. A statement was issued by the cabinet, to which I referred earlier. The statement mentioned what has been carried by foreign news agencies and newspapers of reports and statements by some Tehran rulers, which included threats against the guests of the house of God [Mecca].

These reports and statements explicitly suggested that Khomeyni's regime, and its supporters, will smuggle some of their paid agents of different nationalities among the pilgrims to carry out acts of sabotage and anarchy. Despite this, we hope that the Iranian rulers, and their paid agents, will not attempt to carry out any act that will disturb the hajj.

If anything of this sort takes place, the Kingdom will deal with the perpetrators according to their crime. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ali] Is the Gulf under political and security threats from the drug war?

[Prince Nayif] Undoubtedly, the drug trade, like the arms trade, has financial and political objectives, although financial objectives come first for those who work in this trade.

Despite this, there are numerous international parties interested in wasting the energies of this nation's youth through their attempts to drag them to drug addiction so that they become a burden on their comunities, and inmates or clients of psychiatric clinics instead of leading their nation's development in all fields. The Gulf region is part of the targeted Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Fire Starts in Pilgrims' Tents

LD2107120788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Muna, 21 Jul 88, SPA—The director general of civil defense has made a statement to SPA: As a result of an electrical short circuit, fire broke out before sunset yesterday, Wednesday 20 July in a number of empty tents which had been prepared for pilgrims in Muna.

Firemen contained the fire immediately and were able to put it out. The burned tents were immediately replaced and there were no casualties, thanks to God.

Bangladesh's Ershad Arrives on Pilgrimage

BK2107041888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad arrived in Jeddah this evening to perform hajj. He is being accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. On arrival at Jeddah King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport, President Ershad was warmly received by the governor of Mecca and western region, Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, on behalf of the king of Saudi Arabia.

The president leaves Jeddah for Mecca this evening to perform umrah [minor pilgrimage]. He returns to Jeddah tonight. Earlier, the president was given a hearty send-off at the Zia International Airport this afternoon. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi, Makes Statement

JN2107065088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jul (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight from Baghdad on a visit to the UAE.

Upon arrival, 'Arafat said he will hold talks with the His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on developments in Arab and Palestinian affairs since the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers last June, which was devoted to supporting the uprising of the Palestinian people.

In his statement to WAM, he said his visit coincides with the declaration to begin special arrangements to end the Iraq-Iran war so that the Arab and Muslim nation will celebrate a lasting peace in the Gulf region and all efforts may be directed toward Jerusalem, God willing.

Asked whether the PLO will take part in any guarantees to restore peace between Iraq and Iran, 'Arafat said it is premature to talk about this.

He said he will soon visit Jordan, after the PLO Central Council meetings in Baghdad.

As to whether there is a view on a common action with Jordan in the near future, 'Arafat said that the PLO Executive Committee adopted in its latest meeting in Tunis a resolution to initiate a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue.

When asked whether there were contacts between the PLO and the U.S. on the Palestinian question, 'Arafat expressed regret that the U.S. Administration had never changed its position vis-a-vis the rights of the Palestinian people.

He stressed that there is no contact between the PLO and the U.S. Administration in this regard.

Meets Shaykh Zayid 21 Jul

JN2107104688 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this morning. The meeting was attended by Khalfan Al-Rumi, labor and social affairs minister, and Acting PLO Representative Khalid Malas.

Economic, Trade Accord Signed With Egypt

JN1907162888 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 19 (GNA)—The UAE and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed here today an economic, trade and investment cooperation accord.

It was signed by Sayf al-Jarwan, UAE minister of economy and commerce, and Dr Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, who is currently visiting the UAE.

The 11-article accord, stipulates that the two countries would encourage freedom of export and import of industrial and agricultural products between them.

The accord allows the two countries to take part in international fairs to be held in both countries and each one provide the other with all necessary facilities.

Government technical bodies in both countries will exchange expertise through organising seminars and training courses to be participated by citizens from both countries, it said.

Jarwan and Dr Yusri, earlier in the day co-chaired official talks with the two countries' delegations which opened at Abu Dhabi.

The UAE minister, hailing the deep-rooted brotherly relations between Egypt and the UAE, welcomed the Egyptian minister.

Jarwan added that Egypt with its demographic and cultural weight constitutes the basic guarantee for ensuring the Arab nation's security and development.

"Arab security and economic growth cannot be achieved without realising a comprehensive and effective Arab solidarity," he said.

He affirmed that Arab economic integration was the real and practical" step towards achieving unity, he added. [quotation marks as received]

Energy Minister Predicts Oil Price Increase

JN2007161588 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 20 (GNA)—UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah predicted today that oil prices will reach 18 dollars a barrel after Iran's decision to accept a UN ceasefire order in the Gulf war.

"Oil prices, which registered a marked increase in the past two days, will continue to rise until they reach the official level of 18 dollars a barrel," he said in a statement.

He made the remark after a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador Taha Rajab 'Uraym in which they discussed the oil market situation in light of Iran's Monday decision.

Al-'Utaybah said OPEC would regain leadership of the oil market after a settlement of the eight-year-old Iran-Iran war.

"An end of the Gulf war will strengthen OPEC and place it in the leadership chair again," he added "I think the recent developments will enable OPEC to impose its (own) official and fair prices."

He welcomed OPEC Secretary General Subroto, who will visit the UAE later this month, and "any other minister from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

"The UAE will continue to cooperate and support OPEC," Al-'Utaybah said.

'Aziz Sends Letter to UN's Perez de Cuellar

JN2007202588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Iraq has proposed to the UN secretary general and Iran, five practical steps to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran.

In a letter sent by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today, Iraq stressed the need to move from generalities to practical steps to distinguish between what is tactical and serious in the Iranian stand. The following is the text of the letter sent by Tariq 'Aziz:

Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, New York:

Your Excellency: I am honored to say that the current developments that have arisen, after Iran notified the United Nations of its acceptance of Resolution No 598, require a move from generalities to practical steps through which we can clearly distinguish between what is tactical and serious in the Iranian stand.

We can also know for certain whether or not there are tendencies to reach partial or circumstantial solutions instead of comprehensive and lasting ones.

Out of our deep sense of responsibility to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace as soon as possible, we propose to you and to Iran the following practical steps:

1. That a meeting be held between authorized representatives of Iraq and Iran at UN Headquarters and in Baghdad and Tehran at a later time. This meeting should be held under your auspices or under the auspices of whomever you authorize to launch official and direct talks on the implementation of Resolution No 598—according to the sequence of its operative paragraphs and in accordance with its text.

It is natural that the provisions of the UN Charter, international law, and the Geneva convention of 1949 pertaining to the treatement of POW's, will be referred to for arbitration, in case differences in views regarding implementation arise.

We call for holding this meeting as soon as possible. Our proposal that the meeting be held in Baghdad or Tehran, besides the meeting proposed to be held at UN Headquarters, is to create a suitable atmosphere for reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement between the two countries.

2. In view of the importance of the Shatt al-'Arab issue—which we reiterated in our correspondence and talks with you and the UN Security Council members and in our official statements—we ask that the competent organs in the United Nations immediately take over the task of cleaning the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and prepare it for navigation to enable the two countries to use it.

We also feel that the competent UN organs should fix a definite timetable and provide all the necessary means to accomplish this task as soon as possible. The two countries will extend to these UN organs all possible assistance and the necessary facitilies in a constructive spirit to enable them to accomplish their task soon.

3. Iraq's rights to free navigation in the Arabian Gulf waters and the Strait of Hormuz should be fully ensured.

4. While hoping that understanding between the two sides will be realized, and quick agreement on comprehensive and permanent peace and good-neighborliness between the two countries will be reached, it is natural that, in case of partial or total failure to reach this result, Your Excellency and the competent organs in the UN General Secretariat will play an active role in promoting official direct talks and in giving advice to facilitate negotiations whenever necessary.

The UN Security Council will play an effective role in accordance with its responsibilities as enunciated in the UN Charter and will intervene by adopting appropriate resolutions when necessary.

5. Iraq calls on Iran to stop intercepting or attacking ships and oil tankers that are not parties to the dispute and that navigate in territorial waters of the Gulf states and in international waters and the Strait of Hormuz.

We earnestly hope Iran will respond to these practical proposals and that Your Excellency will adopt them and take the necessary steps to implement them.

Please accept our regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 20 July 1988

Official on Iran's Rejection of Direct Talks

JN2107103888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—Senior Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Wisam Al-Zahawi has described Iran's rejection of an Iraqi proposal as rejection of the Security Council resolution and of the principle of bringing about lasting and comprehensive peace.

This proposal was contained in a letter from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the UN secretary general yesterday. It called for holding direct talks with Iraq under the auspices of the UN secretary general to implement Resolution No 598 .

Commenting on the statement by Iran's UN Representative Mahallati on this issue, Al-Zahawi told INA that Iran's rejection of Iraq's proposal to the UN secretary general yesterday is an explicit rejection of paragraph four of UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling on both parties, Iraq and Iran, to cooperate with the UN secretary general in the implementation of this resolution and in the mediation efforts to attain a comprehensive, just, and honorable settlement of all pending problems. This settlement must be acceptable to both parties in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

Al-Zahawi wondered: If the Iranian side is rejecting talks with Iraq, with whom does it want to establish peace?

He said that the talks about Iranian readiness to cooperate with the secretary general while they reject direct negotiations with Iraq means evasion of the real commitments as per Security Council Resolution No 598.

He said that cooperation with the UN secretary general is necessary, but peace is to be established between Iraq and Iran. Peace is not an issue of agreement between Iran and the secretary general.

The Foreign Ministry undersecretary strongly warned against this Iranian tendency, saying it heightens our caution and need to examine Iran's real intentions. It also warns us not to be hasty.

He stressed that it is wrong to concentrate on the ceasefire issue, comprising only half of the first paragraph of Resolution No 598, which comprises 10 paragraphs. He said Iraq will deal with the issues on the bases of clarity and association between measures that lead to a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Paper Says Iran 'Obliged' To Accept 598

JN2107093688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has stressed that Iraq rejects any inclination or attempt to partition the war or manipulate Resolution No 598.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said in an editorial today that a genuine will for peace must reach a level where lasting and comprehensive peace, on the bases and principles set by President Saddam Husayn and included in Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses, can be brought about.

It said it is now high time the Tehran rulers accept the road to peace and abandon their dark dreams, silly slogans, and empty self-conceit after all this defeat and failure.

It pointed out that Tehran rulers continued to reject the international resolution for a full year, uselessly trying to adhere to devious methods and unsuccessful maneuvers, which they continued to practice in order to strip the international resolution of its sound and balanced principles and bases.

The paper said that peace must be based on certain clear principles that Iraq privately announced on 2 August 1986 and which are included in Security Council Resolution No 598. These are also included in the fair peaceful initiative that Iraq has called for and that the international community adopted.

The paper identified those principles as follows:

1. Full, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal to internationally recongized borders.

2. Full, comprehensive, and speedy exchange of prisoners.

3. An agreement for peace and non-aggression between the two countries.

4. Refrainment from interference in internal affairs and respect of each other's options.

5. Iraq and Iran must be positive elements in all that achieves stability and security in the region, especially the Arabian Gulf region.

The paper said that the Iraqis' struggle, patience, steadfastness, high fighting spirit, and solidarity under the victorious leader Saddam Husayn will inevitably lead to victory and imposition of peace on the enemy.

It said Iraq was saying that peace is the natural thing and war is an exception. As President Saddam Husayn said, the basic law of life is peace, in which Iraq believes.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out the decisive Iraqi victory in light of the growth of balances of power in the military, political, economic, moral, and intellectual aspects favors Iraq. The situation favors Iraq so much that Iraq became able to end the war and conflict by inflicting a final defeat on the enemy, highlighted by its liberating national territories from the filth of the invaders.

The paper added that President Sadam Husayn expressed once again, through his peaceful initiatives, Iraq's will to end the war and build a lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with Resolution No 598 and in the sequence of its operative clauses.

It said that Tehran rulers' insistence on stepping up armed aggressions to the level of a comprehensive war on 4 September 1980 left Iraq with no choice other than to firmly confront the aggression and to crush it totally and impose just, honorable, and comprehensive peace on the enemy.

It said the Tehran rulers insisted on the war and rejected all peaceful initiatives offered to them, the last of which was the international Resolution No 598.

It stressed that the Iranian declaration—circulated by news agencies—on its official acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 would not have been possible without the comprehensive Iranian collapse reaching its climax, and without Tehran rulers becoming certain that their aggressive expansionist program against Iraq and the Arab nation had failed following their major defeats in Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], Majnun, Al-Zubaydat, Mawat, and others, and the growth of opposition by Iranian peoples to the desperate war which brought only destruction on Iran.

It went on to say that Iran rulers were not left with many choices. Their wagers and dreams on the possibility of continuing their aggressive expansionist policy failed, as was evident in the battlefield. They were obliged to declare their acceptance of Resolution No 598 after they continued to reject it for a full year.

PLO's Arafat Congratulates Saddam Husayn

JN2007124188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1103 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat congratulated the president on the Iraqi forces' great victories, on the destruction of the Iranian regime's expansionist and aggressive plan, and on confirming the Arab nation's common destiny in the face of all aggressions against it.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the treacherous attacks on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon which were carried out by the Syrian regime's forces. The president reiterated Iraq's stand toward these attacks in accordance with his speech on 17 July.

He also reiterated the call to adopt a clear and serious Arab stand to protect the sons of the Palestinian people from these attacks against their lives. The talks also dealt with the Palestinian people's valiant uprising in the occupied Arab territories. They praised its escalation against the Zionist occupation.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

'Arafat Departs

JN2007175788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad tonight following a visit of several days to Iraq. 'Arafat was seen off at the airport by the director and members of the Liberation Movements Bureau at the RCC and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails President on National Day

JN2007124988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the 20th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution.

The cable said: It pleases me, in my name and on behalf of the people of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to extend to you on the occasion of fraternal Iraq's national day, the 20th anniversary of the 17 July revolution, my sincerest congratulations and best wishes.

I beseech Almighty God to let the anniversary return at times when you will be enjoying continued good health and will be enjoying happiness and when the fraternal Arab people of Iraq further progress and prosper. I also hope God will help us achieve comprehensive Arab unity, which represents the sole genuine guarantee for liberating usurped territories and safeguarding the nation's dignity as well as its happiness and future.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 3,267

JN2007174188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,267 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities carried out by our victorious Armed Forces for last night and today were as follows:

1. The valiant Al-Siddiq Forces, stationed in the heroic I Army Corps sector, launched a series of resolute attacks carried out by the courageous infantrymen with the support of our heroic artillery men and the valiant men of our Air Force.

They launched the attacks against enemy troops desecrating a number of our border mountain peaks within the I Army Corps sector's bounds. With the courage and resolve of men and with the high morale of the field commands, the Shaykh Hasan mountain; the (Karmak) subdistrict mountain; the (Kasha Ar) mountain; the (Qalayqiji) mountain; as well as the mountain peaks whose elevations are as follows: 1509, 1462, and 1438 meters; and a border post in the (Banawah) area have been liberated, with God's help, from the enemy's desecration.

After destroying the force stationed there, those remaining fled while they were being chased by the firepower of our giant artillery. Pride and glory belong to the valiant Al-Siddiq forces and also to the heroic I Army Corps. God be praised for these victories.

2. At the same time, our troops attached to the valiant Al-Masjid al-Aqsa Forces and stationed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, under efficient field supervision, launched a resolute attack against the positions of the enemy troops desecrating some of our territory and border mountain peaks.

Through the launching of daring assaults supported by our artillery, our heroic Air Force, and the daring Army helicopter Gunship Force, our unique men in this sector managed to liberate the mountain peaks whose elevations are as follows: 730, 525-north, 525-south, 513, 490, and 467 meters. May God salute the lofty minded men of the Allahu Akbar Forces. Proceed forward to score further victories. Praise be to God for His clear victory.

3. With God's help and the resolve of the zealous men of our heroic Air Force, our daring aircraft raided the two oil pumping stations near the Iranian city of (Aza) at 1000 [0600 GMT] today. Having dealt destructive blows to these two stations, all of our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care. Glory to you, O lofty minded hawks. Praise be to God at all times.

4. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships flew 48 combat sorties today, inflicting further losses on the enemy. Having flown this number of sorties, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base in God's care.

5. At 0601 today two Iranian enemy F-5 planes attempted to penetrate our international borders near the Dukan area, targeting the Dukan dam there. Our air defense men confronted them and forced them to flee inside enemy territory after dropping their load outside the area.

6. One single-barreled machinegun was destroyed and its crew was killed in the V Army Corps northern sector. Besides, two infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. One personnel shelter and three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 July 1988

Briefs

Outgoing Algerian Ambassador

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Nur al-Din Sahrawi, Algerian ambassador in Baghad, on the occasion of the end of his tenur in office. During the meeting, they reviewed the friendly relations between the two fraternal states and ways to enhance them and affirmed the mutual desire to bolster and support them in variosu spheres to serve the two fraternal states and the Arab nation. [Text] [*JN2007190588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 88*]

UK's Howe Defends Arms Deal With Saudi Arabia

TA2107103888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 88 pp 1, 13

[Report on "exclusive" interview with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe by London correspondent Yohanan Lahav on 20 July; place not given]

[Text] "Israel should make its neighbors a peace proposal that they cannot refuse, and base its security on it," British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe stated last night in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

According to him, he has been making the same proposal to his Arab interlocutors, with whom he meets more frequently.

The secretary's remarks are particularly important when viewed in the context of yesterday's London TIMES assessment that Sir Geoffrey Howe is seen as a serious candidate to succeed Margaret Thatcher as prime minister.

Despite the huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia and the recurrent statements by David Mellor against Israel and its prime minister, "there is a great deal of goodwill and concern in Britain for Israel's security; these have not dwindled over the last few weeks, months, and years," Howe said.

[Lahav] You upset the balance of the arms race in the Middle East in one swoop, and turned Saudi Arabia into a confrontation state.

[Howe] It is no problem to buy weapons in the world.

[Lahav] But Saudi Arabia, which sent a token force to participate in wars against Israel in the past, will now be forced by its Arab sister countries to play a more concrete role in any future conflagration.

[Howe] Saudi Arabia makes its own policies, and our willingness to sell it weapons does not influence its decisions.

[Lahav] Is it your policy to put an end to Israel's qualitative superiority in the Middle East?

[Howe] It is not a question of superiority or inferiority. Israel's security will not be based on weapons. Israel must persuade its neighbors that it desires peace. We do not see ourselves as the arms suppliers of the Arabs.

[Lahav] Sir Geoffrey, deeds are stronger than words. You are equipping Israel's neighbors with the most advanced weapons, while you give us advice and continue to maintain the arms boycott.

[Howe] There is no shortage of weapons in the world. As for the boycott against Israel, it will persist as long as you remain deployed beyond the borders recognized by the international community.

[Lahav] Your deputy, David Mellor, claims that you share his views on Israel's prime minister. Do you consider Yitzhaq Shamir an obstacle to peace?

[Howe] I do not want to comment on Mellor's remarks. I am talking about principles: The current situation in the Middle East cannot and will not continue. Time is not on Israel's side.

[Lahav] Sir, you did not answer my question, and this will be taken to mean that you agree with Mellor's statements. Please answer me with either yes or no: Do you also consider Shamir an obstacle to peace?

[Howe] I would not be helping matters if I added anything to what has already been said.

[Lahav] With Mr Mellor using you for cover and with you refusing to take issue with him, is the Israeli leadership not being forced to believe that you agree with him?

[Howe] Choosing public statements and interviews to discern the British Government's position is detrimental to the issue.

[Lahav] Sir, are Mellor's statements beneficial to the issue or to the cause of peace in the Middle East?

[Howe] I do not want or have to comment on his remarks. I propose that Israel look at the persistent message of the British prime minister and myself: We sincerely seek Israeli recognition of the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's demands.

[Lahav] What other surprises does Britain have in store for us? We know that you are planning arms deals with the Gulf countries.

[Howe] There are no surprises.

[Lahav] Last question: The understanding between Foreign Minister Peres and King Husayn, in which Mrs Thatcher also played a part, is unfeasible because the Palestinians do not accept it. What do you foresee in the future?

[Howe] I do not know how or when, but at some point you and the Arabs will have to agree to meet each other halfway. The Arab summit meeting did not reject the Shultz initiative. We in Europe are trying to keep it alive.

IDF Changes Appeals Procedures Regulations

TA2107053588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] The IDF is changing the regulations governing hearings on appeals by administrative detainees. Following an appeal to the High Court of Justice, it was decided that more detailed unclassified evidence will be made

available to administrative detainees and their attorneys. The circumstances, date, and place of the incident to which the detainee is suspected of being linked will be made available.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that as of next week, a representative of the Shin Bet will take part in the hearings, as was previously the custom in the appeals committees. This will enable the detainee's attorney to obtain details about the charges against his client.

New Border Police Unit for East Jerusalem

TA2007190088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The Israeli police are looking into the legal and practical possibility of recruiting reserve soldiers. Potential reservists will be former police officers.

Police Commissioner David Kraus said that because of personnel shortages, the police find it difficult to respond to all the needs connected with the uprising in the territories, part of the events taking place inside the Green Line.

Our police affairs correspondent reports that a new border police company will be permanently deployed in East Jerusalem, in addition to the force already there.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Several Rioters Arrested

TA2007173888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] A Bezek telephone company worker was pelted with stones in the Old City of Jerusalem, and he was forced to fire into the air. His colleague was slightly bruised by a stone.

The windows of several vehicles, including buses and police patrol cars, were shattered today in disturbances in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a large force of police has been deployed in East Jerusalem.

Policemen opened fire to disperse stone throwers near Rockefeller Center. The police have arrested several rioters.

Death Toll for 20 Jul Rises

TA2107052188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Another Palestinian has died in the territories, bringing yesterday's death toll to three. Meanwhile, a new communique is being circulated by Palestinian activists, the 22d since the uprising began on 9 December. Steve Rodan reports:

Once again, the most severe disturbances took place in northern Samaria. Yesterday morning, dozens of Arab youngsters rioted along the main road to Janin. They burnt tires and threw stones at soldiers and at passing Israeli cars. Military sources say troops moved in and tried to disperse the rioters, first by using tear gas and rubber bullets, and finally by live ammunition. A 22-year-old Arab, Hisham Zayid, was killed; 16-year-old Bassam 'Urabi later died of his wounds. Three others were injured, one of them shot in the head. Until last night, the Army spokesman's office would not confirm that anybody was killed in a clash with soldiers in Janin.

In the village of Al-Shuyukh near Hebron, soldiers shot to death a 23-year-old Arab who attempted to throw a firebomb at an Army patrol. The man was identified as Zaki Mahmud al-Hayika; three other Arabs were wounded in the incident.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 21 July in a report on page 7 quotes Arab sources as saying that "a firebomb was thrown at a military patrol in downtown Ramallah. The sources also reported numerous stone-throwing incidents in Ramallah and its environs, Hebron, and Bani Na'im."]

Security forces were said to have carried out dozens of arrests in Samarian villages. In Jerusalem, a key pro-Jordanian activist was placed in administrative detention for 3 months. Arab sources identified him as Dr Amin al-Khatib, a prominent physician in the Old City who was also the head of a large charity in the territories. Although he has close ties to Amman, Al-Khatib was said to have also worked well with Palestinian supporters of the PLO.

In the Gaza Strip, a 17-year-old Arab arrived to 'Ali Hospital in Gaza City with a gunshot wound in his hand. Arab sources said he was shot in a clash with the Army. Clashes were also reported in several areas of the Gaza Strip, including the main streets of Gaza City. Security forces used tear gas to disperse the riots.

Palestinian activists have distributed a new communique, the 22d since the uprising began on 9 December. The leaflet lists the schedule of a series of strikes and other protest dates.

Today marks the end of the schoolyear for Arabs in Judaea and Samaria. For the past week, students were completing their end-of-the-year examinations in numerous subjects. The semester was to have continued until the end of the summer, but at the request of the Arab educators, worried over the continued unrest, the Civil Administration cut short the schoolyear.

Now authorities are looking ahead to next week when on Sunday Muslims celebrate the festival of 'Id al-Adha. The Civil Administration is once again considering the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners jailed during the uprising. The move is meant to ease tension among

the families of the prisoners in the territories, and encourage calm. But, at the same time, Muslim fundamentalists are said to be calling for an escalation of violence during the Muslim holiday.

'Very Serious Riots'

TA2107093388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] There were very serious riots in East Jerusalem these past 2 hours. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that hundreds of schoolchildren attacked policemen, hoisted PLO flags, and chanted slogans. They blocked Harun al-Rashid Street and adjoining alleyways with litter and stoned dozens of Arab vehicles, causing a great deal of damage. They also stoned the Bank Hapoalim branch on Azahara Street. Large police forces, including mounted policemen, dispersed the rioters with tear gas, rubber bullets, and clubs. Police arrested several schoolchildren, as well as Nader Khazmu, the wife of Jack Khazmu, editor of the AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI newspaper, on suspicion of inciting the rioters.

There was also a riot in East Talppiyot, where inhabitants of the adjoining village of Jabal al-Mukabar stoned four apartments, smashing windows. The occupants complained that the police arrived late despite their repeated calls.

Our correspondent reported a short time ago that a riot began at the old bus station in East Jerusalem. Border policemen broke in to disperse the rioters and are now closing the stores and ordering the store owners and peddlers to leave the street.

Kindergarten Raided

TA2107085688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 88 p 5

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, Uri Sharon, and Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Arab sources reported that on Tuesday there were large demonstrations in Bayt Rima and Dayr Rasana [name as published] near Ramallah. An inhabitant of Bayt Rima was wounded in the leg and transferred to the hospital in Ramallah, where he was arrested by the security forces. Inhabitants said there were many arrests in the two villages, and a boy was slightly wounded in the stomach by a tear-gas grenade.

The security forces imposed a curfew on the village of Al-Jizah before dawn on Wednesday, detaining 17 people and conducting searches in the fields adjoining the village. PLO flags flying in the village were taken down and the loudspeakers at the mosque were confiscated. [passage omitted]

The Civilian Administration has raised the fee for permits to cross the Jordan bridges. Heads of families are now required to pay 173 shekels for a permit and another 22 shekels for each person accompanying them. Members of the Tulkarm Chamber of Commerce yesterday asked the military governor to cancel the ban on travel to Jordan by residents of the town. The military governor granted their request. Members of the Chamber of Commerce demanded the return of confiscated identity cards and requested that families of security detainees not be burdened with taxes.

In Qalqilyah there was a tax collection operation yesterday during which Muhammad Rashid Khala, a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, was detained. The tax collectors confiscated identity cards and property.

Security forces yesterday broke into a kindergarten in Bayt Hanina, confiscating the mothers' identity cards and detaining four teachers who were taken to the Russian Compound and were later released. The kindergarten, run by the Union of Women's Works Committees, is linked to the DFLP.

Security prisoners in the Ansar-3 camp at Qezi'ot said they held a hunger strike 3 days ago because of the prison conditions and the work imposed on them by the Army. Attorneys who have visited the camp in the past few days said the commanders did not let them bring the detainees underwear, letters, and newspapers.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 21 July on page 1 reports that "four Arab residents from the village of Al-Qubaybah near the settlement of Har Adar suffered burns on Tuesday from a firebomb thrown at them when they left for work in Israel. The driver of the vehicle, aged 29, was seriously burned and transferred to Hadassah Hospital 'Ayn Kerem, where he was operated on." The three passengers were taken to a Ramallah hospital for treatment.]

3 'Terrorists' Sentenced

TA2107082588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 88 p 12

[ITIM report]

[Text] Two terrorists who were caught trying to cross from Jordan into Israel were sentenced yesterday in the Lod military court to life in prison. Ahmad Muhammad Abyad, 22, of Iraq, and Bassam Kamal, 26, of Jordan, were en route to commit terror acts when they were stopped by IDF gunfire. A third man who was with them was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Rabin Warns Arabs Against Use of Chemical Weapons

TA2007174988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today warned the Arab countries not to be tempted to use chemical weapons against us because Israel's reaction would be

very tough. The defense minister was addressing a convention of rabbis and world Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Melekh] The arms arsenal in the Middle East exceeds any stretch of the imagination, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cautioned today. The United States is about to supply new weapons to Kuwait, while the Soviet Union continues to supply arms to Iraq and Syria, and soon also to Libya. The defense minister is particularly worried about the long-range missiles and chemical weapons. He is also aware that the same media that has relentlessly castigated Israel for the events of the intifada [uprising] in the territories, completely ignored the Iraqi gas attacks on the Kurds in Iran.

[Rabin] That was non-news. One of our fears is that the Arab world and its leaders might be deluded to believe that the lack of international reaction to the use of missiles and gases gives them some kind of legitimization to use them. They know they should not be deluded to believe that, because it is a whole different ball game when it comes to us. If they are, God forbid, they should know we will hit them back 100 times harder.

[Ben-Melekh] The defense minister said that Syria's tank force is three times that of France and twice that of Britain. If the Iraqi Army sent a small task force to join the eastern battlefront, the Arab tank force would equal that of all the NATO countries, including the U.S. Army in Europe. Therefore, the defense minister said, the policy upheld by Israel is to prevent war because wars in the future would be very vicious.

[Rabin] Wars at present and in the future would be painful and costly. Even those wars we win would exact a painful price. I believe, however, we would win any wars that are forced on us.

[Ben-Melekh] Although Israel's overall policy is a defensive one, it has built up a large army with very aggressive and offensive characteristics, the defense minister noted. [end recording]

Peres Denies Violating Trade Restrictions

TA2107060588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres has firmly denied that Israel is deviating from its commitment to restrict trade and investment with South Africa. The foreign minister was speaking at the Knesset yesterday in reply to motions for the agenda. Jack Katzenell reports:

The foreign minister rejected charges from left-wing opposition members that the government was violating its own decisions restricting investment and trade with South Africa. As far as I know, Peres said, there has not been one single deviation. He also rejected the charge that Israel is the main arms supplier of the Pretoria regime, and accused a black South African leader, (Frank Chikane), of slandering Israel. Look at South Africa's arms, Peres said. The Mirage warplanes and the Centurion tanks did not come from Israel, and neither did the nuclear technology or the electronics.

He took issue with black leaders who support the PLO and justify terrorism against Israel. I support their struggle, Peres said, not because they support us but in spite of the fact that they don't.

Peres pointed out that Israel voted for the UN resolution calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and yesterday [as heard] Peres sent Mandela a telegram of birthday greetings. He had also cabled the South African Government twice, appealing for clemency for six blacks who were sentenced to death.

Peres To Meet USSR, Polish, PRC Counterparts

TA2107042488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Many meetings have been arranged for Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during the UN General Assembly which opens in New York in several weeks time. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Peres will meet with his counterparts from the United States, the USSR, the PRC, Poland, and Egypt.

'Secret' Contacts With Ethiopia Alleged

PM2007151188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Secret Contacts Between Israel and Ethiopia To Threaten Security of Egypt and Sudan"]

[Text] Important reports received by AL-SHA'B give details of Ethiopian-Israeli contacts aimed at causing disturbances in Sudan with effects extending to the southern borders of Egypt in an attempt to divert Egypt's attention to the Nile Valley and away from direct political and military preparations on the front with Israel.

These reports maintain that Israel infiltrates Sudan through Ethiopia and that extremely secret contacts are underway between the Ethiopian and Israeli Governments with a view to drawing up joint plans to destabilize the situation in Sudan. In that context, an Ethiopian military delegation, including the deputy commander in chief of the Ethiopian Army and a regional commander of the Ethiopian security forces, visited Israel last week.

The reports add that this was not the first visit of its kind; that a delegation consisting of six Ethiopian officials visited Israel last month and that an Israeli delegation, including four military personnel, visited Ethiopia in the same month in the course of the continuing process of coordination and consultation between the two sides.

Dutch Foreign Minister Meets With Palestinians

TA1907182088 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Jul 88

[Report by Khalid Abu 'Akr]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek yesterday condemned the deportation policy pursued by Israel in the occupied territories. He pointed out that his government will ask Israel not to pursue such measures in seeking to quell the uprising in the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to AL-FAJR, Van den Broek said: We have a specific stand regarding the deportation policy and we shall call on Israel to refrain from carrying out such measures to maintain "order" in the occupied territories. Moreover, we requested Israel, through the EC, to cease the deportation policy, and we accepted the Security Council resolution that called on Israel to stop using this policy.

Van den Broek met yesterday evening with 16 Palestinian personalities at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. He heard a detailed briefing from them about the situation in the occupied territories and the aspirations of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence.

These personalities handed Van den Broek a memorandum containing 8 points presenting the Palestinian view regarding the situation. The memorandum called on the Dutch Government to recognize the PLO and initiate direct contacts with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The memorandum also called on the Dutch Government to exert pressure on Israel to cease its practices in the occupied territories. Moreover, the memorandum stated that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 do not provide the basis for a just settlement because they ignore the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The personalities, who included attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Fayiz al-Qawasimi, Jack Khazmu, Dr Sari Nusaybah, Ibrahim Matr, Faysal al-Husayni, Hanna Sinyurah, Ziyad Abu Zayyad, Mustafa al-Natshah, Albert Aghazarian, Zuhayra Kamal, Diyana Safiyah, Jamil al-Tarifi, Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, and Sam'an Khuri, were briefed on the Dutch Government's position regarding the current events and the Palestinian problem.

The Dutch foreign minister noted that the meeting was a follow-up to the talks conducted with Palestinian figures last year, during which an exchange of views was held. He said: In the current meeting we affirmed our commitment to the peace process, as well as to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, which must be taken into consideration.

Van den Broek added: Since we maintain a good relationship with Israel we must use this relationship to expedite the peace process and to demonstrate to our Israeli friends our feelings toward the Palestinian people and our viewpoint regarding their problems.

Concerning relations with the PLO, Van den Broek said: We maintain relations with the PLO and my ministry keeps in contact with the the PLO representative in the Netherlands.

As for recognition of the PLO, Van den Broek said: I do not believe that this point is subject to discussion at this stage because there are many basic problems that should be resolved. I believe that the Netherlands can play the role of a mediator for resolving these problems. Due to our relationship with Israel, we believe that it is our duty to use this relationship, particularly in our meetings during the last 2 days, to state that the status quo cannot continue and that there is a need to take bold steps to launch peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Economic Agreements Reached With Hungary

TA2007194688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Istvan Szabo, a senior representative of the Hungarian Politburo, is visiting Israel along with other administration and economy officials. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that it has been agreed, among other things, that Israel will participate in a trade fair in Hungary, while Hungary will take part in one in Israel. It has also been agreed that each country will hold a trade week in large department stores exhibiting the wares of its counterpart.

The Hungarian official invited the Israeli trade chambers to send a permanent representative to Budapest.

Trade Union Delegation Returns From USSR

TA1807103988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 88 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Text] A delegation of Israeli trade union officials returned yesterday from a 12-day visit to the Soviet Union. The officials visited Moscow, Leningrad, Latvia and Estonia, and met with the secretary-general of the official Soviet trade union, Ivan Yaniv, [name and title as published] who is also a member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee.

IDF Intelligence Faulted in Knesset Committee

TA2007113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The IDF's Intelligence Corps was criticized at this morning's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for failing to foresee the Iranian decision to accept the UN cease-fire call in the Gulf war. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Two days before the Iranian decision was announced, an intelligence officer appeared before a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and gave no indication whatsoever that the announcement was imminent. Today, the same officer had to brief the committee plenary on the repercussions of the Iranian move.

Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of the opposition's Citizens Rights Movement said every important strategic development from the Yom Kippur War to the outbreak of the intifada [uprising] took Israel by surprise, and he warned that the emergence of the united Arab eastern front, including Iraq, may come much sooner than Israel anticipates. The Likud's Dan Meridor agreed with Sarid that Israeli intelligence is taken by surprise with great regularity, but, he said, it is extremely difficult to evaluate the intentions of a small group of people as far away as Tehran. The Labor Party's Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer told the committee he had attended a symposium 6 months ago at the Institute of Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. Ten scenarios were set out, he said, and an early end to the Gulf war was regarded as the least probable.

The deputy chief of staff, Major General Ehud Baraq, came to the defense of the Intelligence Corps which he formerly headed. In his present capacity he receives intelligence evaluations, he said, and from them he had gained the impression over the past few months that the Gulf war was past its peak and its end was approaching. However, Baraq admitted that the Iranian announcement 2 days ago did come as a surprise. [end recording]

Arab Democratic Party Holds Inaugural Convention

TA2107055288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The inaugural convention of the Arab Democratic Party was held in Nazareth last night, the city in which the head of the party, Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, announced several months ago that he was leaving the Labor Party to form a new Arab political organization. Attending the convention was President Herzog. Also there was reporter Vivien Roysten.

The Democratic Arab Party, with MK 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah as its chairman, already claims 4,000 members. In a fiery speech, Darawshah stated the aims of his party: to unify Arab powers so as to be effective in Palestinian and Israeli policy, internally and externally. It calls for recognition of the rights of self-determination to the Palestinian people, the holding of an international peace conference in the Middle East with the participation of all parties to the conflict on equal ground, including the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and a withdrawal by Israel from all territories taken in 1967. [passage omitted]

Darawshah Interviewed

PM1807133588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Jul 88 pp 38, 39

[Interview with 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, Knesset member and leader of the Arab Democratic Party in Israel, by A.'A.; place and date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe there is a big problem which you alone must explain and solve, namely: How can you reconcile your Palestinian identity with your Israeli nationality?

Darawshah: I can say that we as a people or a minority inside Israel are an integral part of the Palestinian Arab people. We are part of the Arab nation. We maintain our Arab-Palestinian affiliation. We share the same aspirations for a free and dignified life. At the same time, we are citizens inside the State of Israel. We are trying to be a political force in order to work for a just and comprehensive peace guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, an end to the Israeli occupation, and the right of both peoples to live a free and dignified life. In their hearts the Arab citizens inside Israel support the establishment of two states.

On this basis we support the idea of establishing an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories so we can live in peace. That is the solution to the problem you mention. There is another point; namely, that we are not yet sufficiently integrated in Israeli society. A policy of discrimination is being pursued against us. Just imagine a government comprising 45 ministers and 5 deputy prime ministers yet containing no representatives of the large national minority of 800,000 Palestinian Arabs, that is, 18 percent of the population. These people are not represented in the ministries. They hold no important positions in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset). There are only five Arab members. Proportionately there should be 14 Arab members.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that your abandonment of the Labor Party and formation of the Arab Democratic Party is part of an attempt to "whiten" Israel's black face during the Palestinian uprising?

Darawshah: We are proceeding from principled stands. We want to serve the cause of peace and the Palestinian cause. We seek true coexistence between Arabs and Jews. My concern is to serve the cause of peace, equality, and the people to whom we belong. I left the Labor Party because of the living conditions and frustration. We were promised that much would be done to ensure complete equality, but the gap between Jews and Arabs is widening in all fields: in education, taxes, and employment. No solutions have been found to the proplems we raised. In addition, there were radical differences with the Labor Party leaders over the line drawn up to secure a solution to the problem. Its concepts differ from mine.

During its recent election campaign the Labor Party launched slogans talking of peace and how to achieve peace, convincing me and many others inside Israel that the party was actually seeking peace. Peres emerged as a man of peace. Via my political and parliamentary work I tried to help to prompt the party to adopt moderate stands. But the party pursued the policy of the "three noes": No to negotiations with the PLO; and no to a return to the pre-1976 borders, which means a big no to peace. The moment I joined the party I stressed the need to negotiate with the PLO, since that is the key to a solution to the conflict. Anyone seeking true peace must talk with the true representatives of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Since your experiment inside the Labor Party is an acknowledged failure, is it possible for an Arab party to succeed inside Israel?

Darawshah: There are facts which must be considered realistically. We are Israeli citizens. We deal with political realities and the political game. The time has come for an independent Arab party to be established in Israel—a party expressing the aspirations and hopes of the Arabs and capable of influencing the political map under the balance between the Labor and the Likud wings. We want to form a third force capable of influencing the formation of any Israeli government in order to participate in decisionmaking. Despite all the difficulties, we cannot surrender or give the fascist Israeli right the opportunity to remove us from the political map. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you agree with those who fear that the presence of the party you talk about may adversely affect the PLO's presence and control over the Palestinian masses inside?

Darawshah: The opposite is the case. We want the Palestinian masses to be represented within a political framework indicating that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. I believe that the PLO leaders realize fully that we seek to strengthen true Palestinian efforts in order to secure full international recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as recognition of the people's right to self-determination and to establish their own state. The party cannot be a replacement for the PLO. The replacements they talk of do not exist.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that your party will make it easy for both the United States and Israel to find Palestinian representatives to participate in any international conference that may be convened?

Darawshah: It is unreasonable to give just any Palestinian living in the occupied territories or the diaspora the right to represent the Palestinians without his being delegated by the PLO, because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We Palestinians inside Israel are not seeking to represent the Palestinian people in an international conference. Our ambition is confined to being a bridge for peace between our Palestinian people and the state in which we live. One of our objectives is to try to participate in decisionmaking in order to be a force capable of exerting pressure on the Israeli Government to negotiate with the PLO and attend the international conference.

AL-HAWADITH: And what is your party's stand on the initiative made by Shultz, who may embark on a fifth tour of the region to present his ideas to the parties in the conflict?

Darawshah: I have no hopes for Shultz' initiative. Shultz' new tour is aimed at continuing contacts to keep the issue alive, rather than securing new methods to break the freeze, especially as there are fundamental issues which the initiative has not broached. It ignores the right to self-determination, which an initiative must recognize if it is to be considered serious. It also ignores the PLO, the sole legitimate representative. So with whom does Shultz want to talk? I do not not have any real hopes for the success of Shultz' mission. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Does the Israeli law punishing anyone who deals with PLO representatives apply to you?

Darawshah: The law applies to everyone. But I voted against it and opposed it right from the beginning. In my speech in the Knesset I called it a terrorist law, not an antiterrorist law. This is because a law that prevents a dialogue aimed at securing peaceful solutions is a terrorist law. Despite that, it has been imposed on all Israelis. But if any sacrifices were needed for the sake of peace, I would be ready, on the basis of the principles I believe in, to infringe that law.

IDF Complains About UNIFIL Incident With SLA

TA2007165988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that a serious clash occurred between UNIFIL troops and members of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] near the village of Kawkabah in the eastern sector of the security zone. It has been learned from SLA headquarters that Norwegian soldiers did not allow SLA troops to cross a UNIFIL checkpoint. According to SLA headquarters, the Norwegian soldiers opened fire and even threw a tear gas canister at the SLA soldiers. The IDF has lodged a complaint with UNIFIL about the behavior of its soldiers in the incident.

UNIFIL headquarters argues that it was the SLA soldiers who opened fire at the Norwegian troops, firing dozens of rounds at the UN position.

Three Finnish soldiers were injured this morning when their car struck a mine near the village of Al-Qantarah in southern Lebanon.

Commentary Views Iraqi Armed Forces Potential

TA2007165288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Jul 88 p 3

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "The Figures Are Frightening; The Significance Less So"]

[Text] In theory, when the Gulf war is over, two enormous armies will join the confrontation front. Yet in contemporary times, inventories are less significant than in the past. Technological and human quality remain the deciding factors.

The Iraqi Army is comprised of 50 divisions—most of them infantry—6 tank divisions, and 5 mechanized divisions. The infantry divisions are of little value in the region. The assessment is that when the fighting ends, they will be disbanded and the soldiers sent home. Land forces will thereafter be based in 15 to 20 divisions. Their infantry command is inferior; cadets course graduates find themselves in senior commanding positions within 5 to 6 years.

The Iraqi Army has adopted standards of cultivating quality command and is headed by officers who have successfully undergone the battlefield test. The army's size, however, and the number of its casualties made the cultivation of high quality commanders difficult. The staffing of the Iraqi Army's top echelons is still done on a personal, rather than professional basis.

The Iraqi Army has some 500 T-72 tanks. Yet, from the beginning of the war until February 1988, they were unable to develop a successful offensive with more than a tank brigade. The only occasions where the Iraqis demonstrated an ability to mount an operation with larger formations was the attack on Al-Faw Peninsula and on the island of Majnun.

During the war, the Iraqis proved their good defensive ability, reflected in fire concentration and the transfer of reserves from one sector to another to fill in the gaps, showing improved control. The Iraqis also made extensive use of their 150 assault helicopters.

The Iraqis fired some 200 surface-to-surface missiles at Iranian cities. A missile armed with a conventional warhead is mainly a psychological weapon, as the warhead is small and its accuracy doubtful. The military moves of the warring sides were only marginally affected by the presence of missiles, but missiles had a cumulative impact on the weariness of the home front.

The core of the problem is the chemical warfare materials used by the Iraqis. The first answer to this weapon is deterrence. The 1981 attack on their nuclear reactor was an example of the price Iraq is liable to pay.

The Iraqi Army's most substantial improvement has been in the sphere of its Air Force, which, after being restructured, proved its ability to perform long-range sorties and precise attacks. The sophisticated means at the disposal of the Iraqi pilots enable the accurate firing of a missile carrying 300 kg of explosives from a range of 30 to 40 km. This ability presents Israel with a problem that cannot be solved through mere reorganization.

The Israeli Air Force has a quantitative and qualitative advantage over the Iraqis, who have only recently received the MIG-29, resembling the better Israeli aircraft. On the other hand, their superb absorption of the French Mirage F-1 indicates their improved ability to adapt themselves to modern means of warfare.

The Iraqi Air Force still suffers from ailments characteristic of Arab air forces: inaccurate navigation and problems of control. Owing to the increased contact of Iraqis with Western technologies, however, these phenomena are gradually disappearing. The mentality of pilots has also undergone a change. It is difficult to make false reports in an advanced Western aircraft equipped with closed-circuit cameras.

The Iraqi Air Force has proven itself in land attacks, but has less experience in air battles. No dramatic change is expected in this sphere.

When the fighting in the Gulf is over, it is doubtful whether either Iraq or Iran will be able to take advantage of the momentum to move the front to our area. On the other hand, one cannot ignore the fact that Iraq has developed and proven its ability to move its troops. There are at the Army's disposal, among other means, 2,800 tank carriers and 280 assault helicopters. The roads leading to the eastern front have been improved beyond recognition since the Yom Kippur war—both via Jordan and via Saudi Arabia.

The current Iranian threat lies mainly in numbers. Despite the battle experience the Iranian Army has accumulated, it is hard to say that this army of masses has any outstanding qualities or that it presents new perils. The chance that Iran will in the near future enter a new military confrontation is slight.

Neither Iran nor Iraq present a threat to the existence of the State of Israel. They have no ability that the IDF cannot confront. The numerical difference to the IDF's disadvantage is not dramatic. The danger lies in a broader Arab coalition, of which Iran and Iraq would constitute merely one part.

Iran's Acceptance of Resolution 598 Reviewed

TA2007160588 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A New Phase in the Gulf"]

[Text] The Arab, Islamic, and international welcome in general, for cessation of the Iraq-Iran war, via Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's decision to accept Security

Council Resolution 598, affirms the credibility of international efforts, in the current stage, to bring about a political resolution of regional problems and issues in the entire world, based on the principles of justice, peace, and stability.

During the 8 years that it has been going on, the Iraq-Iran war has yielded a million dead and wounded and more than 70,000 prisoners from both sides, Iraq and Iran. It has ruined the economy of these two countries and contributed to the destruction or disruption of the economy of many countries that have participated or have had an interest in this war. This happened while the war was enriching makers and sellers of lethal weapons at the expense of the lives and blood of nations.

During these years, Iran's rulers have reiterated their rejection of all good-offices and Islamic, Arabic, and international efforts to resolve politically their conflict with Iraq. When Resolution 598 was issued and Iraq accepted it out of a desire to provide a serious opportunity for a political settlement under UN auspices, Iran's rulers persisted in their customary rejection and escalated their pernicious fight against Iraq and other states of the Arab Gulf. They succumbed to vanity with the capture of some Iraqi territory.

Then the tables turned, and in a short time Iraq succeeded in liberating its Arab soil and pushing back the Iranian forces beyond its international borders. Ultimately, over dreadful heaps of victims' corpses, Iran's rulers were forced to yield to international authority and publicly accept Security Council Resolution 598.

We hope that this acceptance will be immediately translated into implementation of the resolution's clauses: withdrawal of the scattered remnants of Iranian forces to the international borders and a serious beginning to resolving the conflict at a calm negotiating table. The insane guns must be silenced, and the nations that were stifled by the dust of the bloody battles must be allowed to breathe.

We also hope that the new Iranian position, following a long destructive war, will serve as a lesson to those who still believe that war is a means for resolving their problems and difficulties and who continue to reject peace. The Gulf war has proven that missiles and planes do not invalidate the will for peace among nations.

Briefs

Trade Deficit Decreases

Israel's trade deficit dropped by 5 percent in the last 2 months due to a 4-percent increase in the volume of exports during the same period. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that the trade deficit amounted to $365 million at the end of June. [Text] [*TA2007065288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jul 88*]

Agricultural Exports to Lebanon

The volume of agricultural exports from Israel to Lebanon has doubled, amounting to over $3 million from October 1987 to May 1988, compared with $1.3 million during the same period a year earlier. This data was released by Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz. [Summary] [*TA2007065588 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jul 88 p 4*]

'Deal' With Australia

In response to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal's request, the Australian Government has signed a $40-million deal with Israel for the purchase of aircraft refueling systems for its Air Force's Boeing-707's. In exchange, Israel agreed to increase its coal purchases from Australia by $20 million. [Text] [*TA2107070888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 88*]

New Ambassador to Portugal

The Foreign Ministry Appointments Committee this evening appointed Ms Colette Avital Israeli ambassador to Portugal. [Text] [*TA2107070988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 88*]

'Sources,' Fadlallah on Effect of Iranian Decision

NC2007185088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Informed sources have noted that Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution has reflected negatively on its allies in Lebanon. The sources note that as soon as the Iranian decision was announced, Hizballah hastened to contact the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, particularly since the issue of the foreign hostages it is holding is closely connected with Iran's backing.

Thus, the Iranian setbacks in the war with Iraq may have weakened Hizballah. Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 may hasten Hizballah's military and political decline.

Colonel Hayim 'Arif, the Israeli coordinator for civilian affairs in southern Lebanon, has said: I am confident that the ideological factor is weakening. Shortage of funds, rather than military forces, he added, could be the factor which will decide the fate of Hizballah in the end.

Unofficial sources say Iran provides Hizballah with $100 million annually.

Meanwhile, in a statement to REUTER NEWS AGENCY, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has described Iran's decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 as wise and realistic and said it will have positive effects in Lebanon. It could lead to stronger resistance against Israel, he declared.

Paqraduni Meets With Iraqi Leader Saddam Husayn

NC2007123688 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Karim Paqraduni [Lebanese Forces deputy commander] has visited Baghdad, where he spent 4 days during which he held over 20 meetings with Iraqi officials, including a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil has sent Antoine Tarabulsi, deputy chief of state security, to Baghdad with a message for the Iraqi president. Neither the regime nor Paqraduni sources have disclosed the two men's mission.

However, today's edition of the paper AL-SHARQ says that the Lebanese Forces, with Iraqi support and 'Arafatist participation, are preparing for a large-scale military flareup designed to hamper the presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Briefs Lebanese Front

NC2107052588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni has briefed the Lebanese Front on the results of his visit to Iraq and his talks with Iraqi officials, including President Saddam Husayn. He said he sensed the Iraqi leadership's full support for Lebanon, noting an Iraqi promise to assist Lebanon in overcoming its difficulties.

Salah Khalaf on Syrian Peace Plan for Beirut

NC2107062888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has said that the U.S.-approved Syrian peace plan in Lebanon faces serious obstacles 2 days before the start of the legal term for the Lebanese presidential elections.

Abu Iyad disclosed that the Syrian plan provided for Syrian deployment in West Beirut after the Palestinian eviction, in return for the Lebanese Army's control of the eastern sector of the capital. He noted that this last provision was not adhered to because all the Christian forces rallied to confront the Syrian domination.

Kafr Shima Army Positions Under Hizballah Fire

NC2007165888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Army positions in the Science College area and Kafr Shima have been coming under machinegun and rocket fire from Hizballah gunmen's positions in Al-'Amrusiyah and Al-Laylakah since 1845 today.

Hubayqah Men Assemble Near Al-Qubayyat

NC2107060288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] In a clear indication of the Syrian occupation's role in the Al-Qubayyat incidents, security reports say some 100 members of the Elie Hubayqah group yesterday assembled at the public school in Tallat al-Shanbuq near Al-Qubayyat, only a few meters away from a Syrian occupation forces' post.

A leading member of the group disclosed that the measure had been taken for peaceful purposes on direct orders from the Syrian intelligence headquarters in coordination with the Syrian forces command in the area.

Meanwhile, security sources have expressed skepticism about the guarantees provided by the recent cease-fire agreement in Al-Qubayyat. They said such guarantees are not sufficient if the Ja'far clan resumes its attacks on the town's properties and the provisions of the agreement are not fully clarified in this regard.

Seven Lahd Militiamen Wounded in South

NC2007170688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Seven agent Lahd militiamen were injured and an M-113 armored personnel carrier was damaged during an operation this morning by resistance fighters against a patrol of the agents passing along the Jazzin road.

A statement issued by the resistance front said following the operation the enemy shelled and strafed the area surrounding the scene, while two civilian vehicles transported the wounded.

George Salim Declares Presidential Candidacy

NC2007190088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Lawyer George Salim today joined the list of candidates for the presidential elections. He held a press conference this afternoon to read his election platform, which calls for implementing comprehensive secularism, securing social justice, providing medical care, tackling the housing crisis, and strengthening governmental institutions, particularly those concerned with the economy.

No Newspapers To Appear on 'Id al-Adha Holiday

NC2007190588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The Press Association has issued the following statement: Newspapers will halt operations on the 1st day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, Sunday, 24 July, and will not appear on Monday.

Newspapers not usually published on Sunday will halt operations on Monday and will not appear the following day. This is in accordance with the press council decision and in agreement with the Journalists Association.

Foreign Minister Receives USSR's Polyakov

JN2007152388 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, 20 Jul (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, today. The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister. The talks focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and ongoing efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Commentary on Lebanese Presidential Elections

JN2007142888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Lebanese presidential elections in the Chamber of Deputies are approaching, throwing their shadow on the overall political activities in the Lebanese arena and urging the parties involved in the presidential elections and in the internal political dispute to deal earnestly with the presidential elections and the candidates. The reactions to and reports on what is taking place in Lebanese political quarters show that the Lebanese are very interested in the Lebanese presidential elections for many reasons. Most of the Lebanese parties, in addition to Lebanese citizens, want to emerge from the crisis and the abnormal situation resulting from the 14-year-old internal dispute. This is a useful prelude to in-depth discussions of the reasons for, factors involved in, and ways to tackle the crisis.

Among the many statements by and various developments among Lebanese politicians, one saying has become widespread: What is required is a president who resolves, not manages, the crisis. This reflects a desire by people with good intentions to resolve the crisis, emerge from it, and move to a natural situation in which security, stability, and normal life prevail and in which Lebanon will play the role sought by the Lebanese—and the Arabs, because it does not contradict higher pan-Arab interests.

The concentration on a president who can resolve, not manage, the crisis includes a desire to avert the responsibility shouldered by all parties, factions, and politicians from all walks of life and affiliations. Is it the president alone who decides whether to manage or resolve the crisis? Can a decision made by any president alone resolve the crisis if the influential parties are indifferent?

The president, whose position is a symbol of Lebanon's unity and continuity, has a role and an impact—negative or positive—in Lebanese political life. However, the president cannot work miracles alone. The president deals with the situation in accordance with reality, not theories or ethical ideals. To enable the president to resolve the crisis, the parties to the crisis, those involved in it, and those who obstructed national reconciliation, must desire a solution, accept it, and be ready to shoulder the consequences and responsibilities.

The responsibility for the crisis and its solution is comprehensive. No party can escape from it or place it on the shoulders of other parties whether it is the president, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, or the prime minister.

Emerging from the crisis and achieving the required reforms require a president whose characteristics are known to the Lebanese. This also requires all Lebanese parties to champion national interests over other interests. They must agree on denominators and the necessary bases to achieve and implement reforms through cooperation with a president who believes in these reforms and who has the desire and capability to achieve reforms and lead a national reconciliation that guarantees Lebanon's unity of people and territory; Arab identity; Arab affiliation; good relations with the Arabs; abidance by the commitments of Arab League members; efforts to liberate its territory from Israeli occupation; and its constitutional, legal and practical capability to sponsor all guarantees and equality among all Lebanese.

The circumstances are suitable for the Lebanese to tackle their internal crisis in a viable way. The Lebanese should begin to do so.

Briefs

New Indonesian Ambassador

President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received the credentials of (Mohammad Hatta), Indonesia's new ambassador to the SAR. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Minister of State Wahib Fadil attended. [Summary] [*JN2007143088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jul 88*]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Decree Pardoning Prisoners

LD2007192088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1000 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The office of the Presidency reported to BAKHTAR that esteemed Afghan President Najibullah's Decree No 496 dated 20 July 1988 on the pardon and release of prisoners on the eve of 'Id al-Adha [beginning of the hajj] has been issued.

Decree on the pardon of prisoners on the eve of 'Id al-Adha:

On the eve of 'Id al-Adha and with respect for the humane policy of national reconciliation, the following people have been pardoned or their punishment reduced, in accordance with Article 75, Clause 8 of the Afghan Constitution.

Article 1. All prisoners with 1 year of their sentence left, regardless of the nature of their crime.

Article 2. All prisoners suffering from incurable diseases, regardless of the duration of the prison sentence and the nature of the crime.

Article 3. This decree does not apply to the following individuals, unless they are suffering from incurable diseases:

1. People who have been convicted of murder, terrorism, or crimes against the internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan, as set out in Article 359, Clauses 1 and 2; Article 396; and Article 185 of the Criminal Code, and Article 1, Clause 1; Article 2, Clause 1; Article 3, Clause 1; Article 4, Clause 1; Article 5, Clause 2 and 3; Article 7; and Article 14 of the statute of crimes against the internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan.

2. People who have been convicted of hostagetaking or armed robbery, as set out in Article 213, Clause 1; and Article 447, 455, 456, 457, and 515 of the Criminal Code, and Articles 15 and 16 of the statute of crimes against the internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan.

3. People who have been convicted of causing explosions, as set out in Articles 217, 360, 363, and 369 of the Criminal Code, and Article 5 of the statute of crimes against the internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 4. The date of issuance of the decree shall be taken into account when calculating the time served on prison sentences.

Article 5. The people to be released, as set out in Article 1 of this decree will be eligible for release as of 28 July 1988.

Article 6. The commissions that were in charge of implementing Decrees 156 and 157, dated 25 April 1988, will assume the implementation of this decree.

Article 7. This decree is enforceable as of the date of approval and it will be published in the Office Gazette and other mass media.

[Signed] Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan.

Government Hands 54th Protest Note to UNGOMAP

LD2007225388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry office for liaison with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that the 54th note, dealing with seven cases of violation by Pakistan of Article 2 of Document 1 of the Geneva agreements, was handed to the mission today in Kabul.

Information about the repeated violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the agreements was detailed in the note. UNGOMAP is requested to assess these violations by Pakistan and report its findings to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and to the UN secretary general's representative.

Mujahidin Capture 14 Security Posts near Kabul

BK2007113388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured 14 security posts around Kabul. Reports from Paktia Province say that the mujahidin are engaged in an operation to surround Gardeyz from three sides.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles at Qandahar, Kill 2

LD2007185888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Extremists, using heavy weapons, committed another crime against residential areas of the city of Qandahar. The BIA military section reports that the extremist elements fired ground-to-ground missiles at the city of Qandahar, martyring two of our compatriots reading the Holy Koran in the Kherqa-e Mobarak mosque. Damage was inflicted on the Kherqa-e Mobarak mosque and the homes of Qandahar citizens.

31 Killed in Internal Clashes Among 'Extremists'

LD2107080288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 20, BAKHTAR—A group of extremists which was disturbing the peaceful life of residents of Khowst Grand District, bordering Pakistan, was crushed by the Armed Forces of the country, reports our military correspondent from Khowst.

Several hideouts of the extremists were destroyed as well as a result of the operations carried out by the Armed Forces in Esmael Khail [name as received] sub-district of Khowst.

Similarly, five extremists were killed in Zarmal district of Paktia Province as a result of the internal clashes occured among the extremists.

Likewise, 13 extremists were killed recently in Ghazni Province as a result of the armed clashes occurred among the extremists.

Thirteen extremists were killed and eight others seriously wounded as a result of the separate fightings took place among the extremists in Karokh district of Herat Province and suburbs of Samangan Province.

Deputy Prime Minister Amin Addresses Traders

LD1907143388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0504 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 18, BAKHTAR—The convocation of such forum is a significant event in the economic, social and political life of Afghanistan, said Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan in his report presented to the [national traders] conference.

The national traders, the craftsmen and other segments who have been playing a significant role in production and economic development have not been spared from damage sustained from the war either. Insecurity of highways as well as economic stagnation brought about a condition in the market as a result of which, on the one hand, price stability got out of control and, on the other, impeded the purposeful and consistent work of our traders and national capital holders.

Moreover, over the years of war the national traders partially lost trust in the security of their capital, personal assets and of banking transactions. This is also another factor in the slowing down of the trade growth.

Trade under the multi-sectorial economy of the nation has become one of the major spheres of the national economy and due to its importance in the national economy it has always been at the focus of attention of the government. Because it is trade activities which ensure the fulfillment of the needs of the population at the national level in terms of foodstuffs, industrial materials, domestic products and imported goods.

They also provide possibilities for the growth and expansion of other areas of national economy, furnish raw materials, machineries and other means for domestic industrial factories, play a significant part in strengthening currency reserves of the country, meet the currency needs of the vain spheres of the national economy, provide better possibilities for the formation of capital in raising the level of employment and finally play an important role in the country's balance of payment at the international scale, he stressed.

The implementation of the humane and universally admired policy of national reconciliation has in the light of the provisions of the Constitution, created favourable ground for attracting the national traders into commercial, investment and economic development activities of our beloved country.

He added I wish to say with pride and certainty that the national traders, alongside other patriots, have warmly hailed the national reconciliation policy and they showed their practical contribution in various trade spheres such as import, export, establishment of private and mixed trade firms as well as industrial investments during last year and the first quarter of the current Afghan year.

Facts and figures show that despite problems and difficulties emanating from the war, the national traders have vastly participated in the continued development of trade activities, having fullfilled their national duty by placing their available capitals at the service of the people.

The share of national traders of the private sector in domestic trade has been remarkable amounting to 80 percent of the total domestic trade. Around 7,000 national traders are engaged in commerce and others are organized in 943 business firms collectively the outcome of whose work is naturally greater than individual ventures. Due to active participation of the national traders almost 308 private companies and 24 mixed enterprises in the industrial sphere have been set up.

Moreover, 12 state-owned trade institutions operate alongside private firms and individual merchants. Many national traders play a significant role in the industrial activities. For instance over 1987 the national traders and capital-holders undertook to invest as a whole in 119 mixed and private projects approved by the Standing Commission of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers in domestic and foreign investment affairs with the initial capital of afs [afghanis] 2,384 million and final capital of afs 6,976 million.

This showed a three-fold growth against 1986 and stood for the patriotic participation of national traders and capital holders in the socio-economic growth of Afghanistan.

Statistics show that the trade turn over during the last ten years has enjoyed some growth as compared with 1978. This growth has been subordinated to a series of positive and negative fluctuations and changes from year to year.

During 1987 the foreign trade turn-over was realized to 1,237 million dollars. Of them 511 million dollars constituted export and 729 million dollars [figures as received] imports showing a 15.7 per cent reduction on imports compared to the prevous year.

State and mixed sector constitute 46.5 per cent of exports and 50.1 per cent of imports, while private sector alone constitutes 53.5 per cent of exports and 49.9 per cent of imports. The share of exports during 1987 in the utilized gross national product, according to 1987 prices, is afs 17.7 billion or 9.1 per cent.

Similarly, the share of imports including commercial items, gratis aids and credits granted by the friendly countries in the utilized gross national products afs 63 billion or 32.6 per cent, while the share of imports by private sector in the utilized GNP during 1987 was around 9.9 per cent and its share in export was 4.9 per cent.

It is worth mentioning that the total value of exports over the last 4 years has been reduced to a certain extent. The main reason behind this reduction include limitation of the volume of domestic production, the low-quality packing, assortment and processing of goods, fluctuation of demand for Afghan merchandise in the international markets, restrictions raised by some Western countries, the lack of variety and diversity of export items, transportation difficulties, improper organization of trade and the rising cost of the domestic products.

The results achieved through the activities carried out by the state and cooperative domestic trade showed that though the planned parameters on the whole are implemented, retail trade has not attained the necessary efficiency satisfactorily in connection with insuring of stability and reduction of prices of essential commodities, meeting the needs of the population for these commodities and creating a sound competition in favour of public interest against private traders, Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin stated.

The present conference, which by itself is another important step taken by the state towards pooling the efforts of the state with those of the private sector for building Afghanistan, and is indicative of the state policy of ensuring mutually beneficial and long terms ties between the state sector and the private sector, enjoy august and valuable follow ups.

We are confident that upon the proposals set forth, the views exchanged, the assessment made and the decisions as well as the sanctions adopted by the conference under the conditions of the national reconciliation policy at the sensitive stage of the history of the country, further grounds are paved for cooperation between the national traders and the state and they offer practical possibilities for active participation in the construction of our dear and popular homeland Afghanistan.

One should stress with regret and pain that yet we are distant from this sacred ideal, because in various corners of our country required security for productions, trade in particular, does not fully exist. On account of continued hostility, highways are not as safe as you patriotic traders expect, yet direct damage are inflicted on our national economy by arsoning lorries carrying commodities needed by the people. Searching humanitarian ways and methods of reconciliation and cessation of hostility in the name of the homeland, we once again urge our estranged brothers for peace and stopping of fratricide.

We want them to, jointly with us, seek, not by means of war, but by means of dialogue, a way out of the present hardships, thus staving off further destruction of the country and further erosion of our ruined economy. This appeal is sincere, fraternal and void of any threat. We want anybody whose heart beats for the sake of the homeland and who has a sympathy to our suffered country to join us, he concluded.

India

Gandhi Returns to Delhi After European Visits

BK2007161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the United States can stop Pakistan's nuclear program if it so wishes. He was speaking to newsmen, who accompanied him on his 4-nation tour, aboard the aircraft.

Mr Gandhi said there is no other country which can halt Pakistan's nuclear program. We are constantly in touch with the United States on the issue and spare no opportunity to impress upon Washington our point of view.

He welcomed Turkey banning the export of inverters, a critical element in producing nuclear devices.

Mr Gandhi said India is happy at Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution on the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf war.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the government proposes to bring forward a comprehensive bill on electoral reforms in the coming session of parliament. A lot of spade work has already been done.

He said that it is for the first time that election results were not announced on time. Questions were being asked even outside the country about the electoral system.

On his return to New Delhi this evening, Mr Gandhi told newsmen at the airport that there is no quick solution to the Indo-China border dispute. Relations with China, however, have improved in many fields in recent years.

Mr Gandhi said he has agreed to visit China in principle, but many things will have to be worked out before that.

On Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said there is no change in india's policy and we are coordinating closely with President Jayewardene to solve the ethnic problem in the island.

Referring to the action plan on disarmament submitted by India at the United Nations, he said response to it has been very good and we will follow it up.

Regarding Cyprus, Mr Gandhi said India supports the United Nations' initiative in this regard.

Turning to the home front, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it is for the governor of Tamil Nadu and the election commission to decide about the holding of elections in the state.

In reply to a question on the inquiry into the Bofors gun deal, he said the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has been asked to go into certain aspects of the deal. The government will look into the report after it is submitted.

'Terrorists' Gun Down 2, Injure 1 in Punjab

BK2107045488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, the terrorists gunned down two persons and seriously injured another in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District two farmers were shot dead. In Gurdaspur District terrorists opened fire at a house in the village (Ghaniakadangaj) and seriously injured a farmer.

Further on Violence

BK2107124388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Four people were killed in terrorist violence in Punjab last night. A school teacher was shot dead by terrorists in Maniali Jaisingh village in Amritsar District. In another incident, some terrorists shot dead two farmers in Subhar village. One person who was shot and injured at a village in Gurdaspur District later died.

West Bengal Releases 75 More Gurkha Militants

BK2007125588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The West Bengal Government today released 75 more Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] activists detained under the anti-terrorist act. With this 225 GNLF activists have been released so far.

Meanwhile, except for a bomb blast in Kalimpong, there is no report of any other untoward incident from the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling.

61 Gurkha Activists Released

BK2107131188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] In West Bengal, 61 more GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists arrested under the anti-terrorist act were released today. With this the number of GNLF activists released so far has gone up to 292.

The GNLF leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, has demanded the release of 90 percent of his supporters before the next tripartite meeting to be held in New Delhi on Monday. Meanwhile, barring a bomb blast in Kalimpong, the Darjeeling hill areas remained incident-free today.

Rockets, Ammunition Recovered Near Pakistan Border

BK2007164488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Thirty-three rockets and a larger quantity of ammunition were recovered by a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party after an encounter with extremists near the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan this morning. The extremists, however, managed to escape into Pakistan in the darkness.

Iran

Khomeyni Message on Hajj, UN Resolution 598

LD2007173388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1053 GMT 20 Jul 88

["Message" to the nation by Imam Khomeyni on the eve of the anniversary of the 1987 "massacre" in Mecca and on the occasion of Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution No 598—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Despite the passage of a year since the horrific and ruthless masacre of the defenseless, committed, and monotheistic pilgrims by hirelings of the United States and the hangmen of Al Sa'ud, in the city of God and of the people of God, by rolling into dust and blood the best slaves of the truth, the Al Sa'ud soaked not only the holy shrine, but the whole world of Islam with the blood of the martyrs, and brought bereavement to Muslims and free people. For the first time last year, Muslims celebrated the Feast of Sacrifice with the martyrdom of the sons of Abraham, peace be upon him, who had just returned from the battlefield of the war against world-devourers and their agents for the dozenth time.

They celebrated the feast in the slaughterhouse of love and the arena of God's pleasure. Once again, the United States and the Saudis, contrary to the norms and customs of generosity and tolerance, killed men and women, the martyrs' fathers and mothers, and our defenseless war disabled. In the last moments, they savagely and in a cowardly way lashed the dying bodies of our old, thirsty, and innocent people and took their revenge. Who were they taking revenge from and for what sin? Revenge

against those who had left their houses to visit the house of God and the people's sanctuary? Revenge on those who had for years carried the heavy burden of trust and struggle? Revenge on those who were returning from smashing idols, the same as Abraham, peace be upon him? Those who had come a long way with the cry of "O, Muslims come to the hajj on foot"?

They had come with bare feet and heads in order to please Abraham. They had come as guests of God to wash off the dust of the long journey with the water of Zamzam and to quench their thirst in the limpid water of the hajj rituals in order to prepare themselves for new responsibilities with greater strength. In their eternal search, not only in the hajj arena, but in the practical arena of life, they had come to cast off the cloak and garments of the world. Those who for the sake of liberating the deprived slaves of God had forbidden any comfort to themselves and had dressed themselves in the shroud of martyrdom.

They had decided with firm resolve that not only were they not going to be the slaves of the United States and the USSR, but they would not submit to anyone but God. They had come to tell holy Muhammad, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion, once again that they were not weary of the fight and knew quite well that Abu Sufiyan, Abi-Lahab, and Abi-Jahl [early Islamic figures regarded by Shi'ites as the epitome of corrupted Islam] had waited in ambush for revenge.

They were saying to themselves: Are Lot and Howal still in Mecca? Yes, more dangerous idols in a new disguise and deception now exist. They know that today the santuary is safe, but not for the public. It is only safe for the United States. Anyone who rejects the call of the United States and bows to the God of the Ka'bah will be singled out for revenge—the pilgrims whose body cells and every revolutionary movement and gesture have revived the rituals performed by Abraham. These pilgrims were sincerely seeking to spread the perfume and pleasant melody of "O, God we respond to your call" into the atmosphere of their country and their lives.

Yes, in the logic of global arrogance, anyone who wishes to show his disavowal of infidels and blasphemy will be accused of blasphemy. The muftis and the sons of the muftis, these descendants of the [words indistinct] will order his death. At last, in Islam's history, the sword of blasphemy and division, which has been hidden in the hypocritical cloak of Yazid's followers and descendants of the Umayyid Dynasty, God's curse be upon them, had to come out again from the same cloak of Abu Sufiyan's heirs to destroy and kill the best true sons of the prophet of Islam.

The same sword that martyred holy Husayn, peace be upon him, and his loyal friends came out again to tear the throats of Husayn's followers in that hot weather, in the Karbala' of the Hijaz, and on the killing ground of the holy sanctuary. Exactly the same accusations that Yazid's forces employed against the true sons of Islam, when they presented them as aliens and infidels whose killing was justified, were used against the followers of their path. God willing, in an appropriate time we will remove our heart's grief by taking revenge from the United States and the Al Sa'ud; we will deprive them from enjoying the sweet taste that this terrible crime has left in their heart. By celebrating the victory of justice against the forces of blasphemy and hypocrisy and by liberating the Ka'bah from the claws of the infidels, we will enter the holy mosque.

The pilgrims from other countries who have gone to Mecca, undoubtedly under the control and intimidation of their governments, will however miss their friends, brothers, and their true comrades-in-arms. The Al Sa'ud clan, in order to cover up their horrific crimes of last year and to justify their policy of blocking God's path by preventing Iranian pilgrims from making the pilgrimage, will subject other pilgrims to a propaganda bombardment. The mullahs of the court and the hireling muftis, God's curse be upon them, in the Islamic states and particularly the Hijaz, have put on shows and made speeches in the mass media and the press and will control the arena by forbidding the pilgrims to think and pursue the true philosphy behind the hajj rituals, depriving them from understanding the premeditated plan of the arch Satan in the massacre of the God's guests. No doubt under such conditions, the pilgrims are shouldering a heavy burden in their mission.

The biggest problem of Islamic societies is their lack of understanding of the true philosophy behind many divine commandments, and the hajj, with all its mystery and greatness, has remained a simple ritual of worship and a pointless and fruitless movement. One of the greatest duties of a Muslim is to find out the truth behind the hajj and why they should spend some of their spiritual and financial resources celebrating it. What has been depicted of the hajj philosphy by ignorant people, biased analysts, or by hirelings thus far is that the hajj is a common worship and a pilgrimage for tourism and sightseeing. What has the hajj got to do with learning how to live, how to fight, and how to stand against the capitalist and communist world?

Why should the hajj deal with the issue of regaining the rights of the Muslims and the deprived from the oppressors? Why should the hajj seek a solution to the physical and psychological pressure to which the Muslims are being subjected? Why should the hajj teach Muslims to show themselves as a mighty power and the third power of the world? Why should the hajj provoke Muslims to rise against puppet governments? Or is the hajj just an excursion to visit Mecca and Al-Madinah and nothing else? The hajj is an opportunity to bring mankind closer to the lord of the house. It is not just ritualistic movements, actions, and chanting of prayers; mankind will not reach God through greeting God, chanting words,

and simple ritualistic movements. The hajj is the center of divine knowledge, where one should seek the content of Islam's policy in every corner of life.

The hajj is the medium for establishing a society separated from material and spiritual decadence. The hajj is the appreciation and repetition of all the scenes in human life and an evolved society that evoke love. The rituals of the hajj are the rituals of life. Because the Islamic ummah, regardless of race and nationality, should emulate Abraham for the good of the ummah of Muhammad—may God's peace and benediction be upon him and his scion—in order to become a single unit, the hajj is a preparation, training, and realization for this monotheistic life. The hajj is the arena for Muslims to display their talents and material and spiritual power.

The hajj is equivalent to the Koran in that everyone derives benefits from it. However, regarding the scholars and those who deeply study Islamic matters and who understand the sufferings of the Islamic ummah, if they plunge into that sea of knowledge and if they are not afraid to delve into its social policies and rulings, they will harvest more pearls of guidance, development, knowledge, and freedom from the shells of this sea and will be filled until eternity with the clarity of its knowledge and wisdom.

However, what should be done and what should we do about this great sorrow? For the hajj is in bondage to the same extent as the Koran. And to the same extent that that book of life, perfection, and beauty has been hidden under covers of our own making and that this treasure of the Creator's thoughts has been buried and hidden under our devious thoughts, and that His familiar, guiding, and living language and His life-inspiring philosophy has been debased into a language of horror, death, and the grave, the hajj has also been afflicted with the same fate—a fate involving millions of Muslims going to Mecca every year and walking in the footsteps of the prophet, of Abraham, Ishma'il, and Hagar.

Yet no one asks himself: Who were Abraham and Muhammad—may God's peace be upon them—what did they do, what was their aim, and what do they want of us? It appears this is the only thing that is not thought about. Obviously, a hajj which is spiritless, stagnant, and passive; a hajj without disavowel of the infidel, without unity; and a hajj that does not defeat blasphemy and the infidel is not a true hajj. In short, all Muslims should revive the hajj and the Holy Koran and to return to them their living qualities.

Committed scholars of Islam should present correct and true treatises on the principle of the hajj and should throw into the ocean all the superstitious concoctions of court ulema. However, the one thing the dear pilgrims should know is that the United States and Al Sa'ud have portrayed the Mecca incident as a sectarian fight and a struggle for power between Shi'ites and Sunnis and they also portray Iran and its leaders as wanting to establish a great empire. They hope that many of those who are unaware of the trend of political events in the world of Islam and the sinister plots of the world-devourers will think that our cries of "disavow the infidel" and our struggle to achieve freedom for nations aims at gaining political power for ourselves and expanding the geographical area of Islamic rule.

Of course, it is not surprising to us and to all scholars and thinkers who are aware of the filthy purposes of the Al Sa'ud circles that Iran, whose government ever since its victory has espoused Muslim unity and considers that it shares the sorrows and joys of Muslims in all events pertaining to the world of Islam, should be accused of creating division among Muslims. Moreover, it is not surprising that pilgrims, who have gone to the Hijaz out of love of the pilgrimage to the shrine of the prophet and the divine sanctuary, should be accused of a military expedition to capture the Ka'bah and to burn down God's sanctuary and ruin the prophet's Al-Madinah, giving as their reason and evidence the presence of the guards and the military and officials of our country in the hajj ceremonies.

Yes, according to the Saudi's logic, the military and guards of an Islamic country must be alienated from the hajj. And these kinds of trips produce surprises and are motivated by conspiracy when taken over by state and military officials. From the viewpoint of the arrogant regimes, the officials of Islamic countries should go to Europe. What have they got to do with the hajj? The U.S. lackeys take the burning of the U.S. flag to mean the burning down of the sancturay. They take the slogan "Death to the Soviet Union and America and Israel" to mean hostility to God, the Koran, and the prophet. They have portrayed our officials and our military dressed in mourning to be leaders of a conspiracy.

The truth is that the arrogant powers of West and East, particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, have actually divided the world into two parts: one free and the other in political quarantine. In the free part, it is these superpowers who recognize no boundaries, limits, or laws. They consider aggression against the interests of others and exploitation and colonialism and the enslavement of nations to be a necessary matter that is fully justified, logical, and in conformity with all their self-construed and international principles and laws.

However, in the politically quarantined part, where unfortunately the majority of the weak nations of the world, particularly Muslims, have been confined and imprisoned, there is no right to life or to hold a point of view. All laws, regulations, and formulas must be dictated by the systems of the lackeys in order to satisfy the interests of the arrogant powers. Unfortunately, most of the agents implementing these laws are the same rulers

who have been imposed by the arrogant powers or who follow the general lines of world arrogance and even regard any shouts for help inside the barricades and chains as unforgivable sins.

The interests of the world devourers demand that no one have the right to utter a word which might weaken them or disturb their peaceful slumber. As the world's Muslims are unable to utter a word about the calamities inflicted upon them by the rulers of their countries due to pressure, imprisonment, and execution, they should at least be able to voice their difficulties and hardships in complete freedom in the secure house of God so that other Muslims may think of means to liberate them.

Therefore, we insist that at least in the house of God and the secure holy shrine Muslims should be free from all the bonds imposed on them by the tyrants and allowed to disavow that which they abhor and to use any means for their liberation.

The Al Sa'ud government has assumed responsibility for controlling the pilgrims in the house of God. Here, we confidently assert that the Mecca incident was not separate from the basic policies of the world-devourers in destroying and uprooting valiant Muslims. By announcing our disavowal of the infidels we resolve to release the latent energies of the world of Islam. With the assistance of Almighty God and with the hands of the children of the Koran, this will be achieved some day. God willing, some day all Muslims and down-trodden people will shout against the tyrants of the world and prove that the superpowers and their servants and mercenaries are among the most hated creatures of the world.

The massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God was a conspiracy to safeguard the policies of world arrogance and curb the influence of the pure Islam of Muhammad, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion. The black and disgraceful dossier of the indifferent rulers of the Islamic countries reveals the how weakened body of islam and the Muslims has become.

The prophet of Islam does not need aristocratic mosques and decorated minarets. The prophet of Islam has been following the glory and the greatness of his followers, and unfortunately, because of the erroneous policies of puppet rulers they have fallen into misery.

Will the world's Muslims ever forget the catastrophe of the massacre of hundreds of scholars and thousands of women and men of various Muslim sects who were killed during the shameful rule of the house of Al Sa'ud? Or will they ever forget the criminal massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God? Are Muslims not able to see that today the centers of Wahhabism around the world have been turned into centers of sedition and espionage? Can Muslims not see that on the one hand these centers promote the Islam of aristocracy; the Islam of Abu Sufiyan; the Islam of the underhanded court clerics; the Islam of people who lack common sense and yet pretend to be pious as they dominate the seminaries and universities; the Islam of misery; the Islam of power and wealth; the Islam of deception, compromise, and slavery; the Islam of the sovereignty of capital and the capitalists over the people who have been victimized and are barefooted; and in one word, American Islam? And on the other hand, they bow to the shrine of their lord, the world devourer United States.

Muslims are unable to talk about their agony over the fact that the house of Al Sa'ud and the custodian of the two holy mosques has assured Israel that he will not use his weapons against them. And to prove that they mean it they cut off their relations with Iran. Indeed, how warm and sincere the relations of the Islamic countries with the Zionists must be if they even omit struggle with Israel from the agenda of their meetings.

If they had even a tiny bit of Islamic and Arab dignity and honor, they would have never been prepared to engage in such a dirty political deal, in such a sellout, an act of treason.

Do not these deeds bring disgrace to the world opf Islam? Is not the act of being a mere spectator a sin and a crime? Is there no one among the Muslims to rise up and say he will not tolerate such disgrace and humiliation? Must we indeed sit idly by as the heads of Islamic countries ignore the feelings of one billion Muslims and put their seal on so great a crime by the Zionists and once again bring to the scene Egypt and its ilk? Will Muslims now realize that the Iranian pilgrims have risen to occupy the house of God and the shrine of the prophet and that they are intent on stealing the Ka'bah to take it to Qom?

If the Muslims of the world believe that their leaders are the real enemies of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel, then they will also believe the propaganda against us. Of course, we have repeatedly shown in our foreign and international Islamic policy that we have been and are intent on expanding the influence of Islam in the world and lessening the domination of the world devourers. Now, if the servants of the United States cite this policy as being expansionist and motivated to establish a great empire, we will not fear it but welcome it.

We are intent on tearing out the roots of corrupting Zionism, capitalism, and communism in the world. We have decided to rely on God Almighty to destroy the regimes which are based on these three pillars, in order to spread the regime of the Islam of the messenger of God—peace be on him and his scion—in a world of arrogance. Sooner or later, the nations living in bondage will witness such an event.

We will prevent with all our might the expansion of extortion and of immunity for U.S. agents, even if this entails violent struggle.

God willing, we will not allow the Ka'bah and the hajj—this great pulpit which must reflect the voice of the victims all over the world and spread the echo of monotheism from the summit of humanity—to witness compromise with the United States, the Soviet Union, infidelity, or blasphemy. We ask God to give us the power to sound the death knell of the United States and the Soviet Union, not only from the Ka'bah but also from all the world's churches.

Muslims throughout the world and the deprived all over the world must feel proud and a sense of liberation in the infinite twilight which our Islamic revolution has created for all world devourers. They must sing the song of liberation and freedom for their lives and fates. They must bind their wounds, because the age of deadlock, hopelessness, and stagnationof infidelity has come to an end and the age of the blossoming of nations has surfaced. I hope all Muslims will see the blossoms of freedom and have the perfume of springtime, the delight of the flowers of love, and the fine waters of the spring of their willpower. We must all come out of the quagmire of silence and stagnation in which the agents of U.S. and Soviet policy have sown seeds of death, and go to the sea from which the waters of Zamzam spring. We must all wash with our tears the curtain of the Ka'bah and the sanctity of God which has been soiled by the hands of the untouchable aliens of the United States and those born of the United States.

O Muslims of all the world, because you have been afflicted with a slow death under the domination of the foreigners, you must conquer the horror of death and use the martyrdom-seeking idealistic youth who are ready to break through the lines in the battle with infidelity. Do not think of maintaining the status quo; rather think of escaping bondage and gaining freedom from slavery; think of attacking the enemies of Islam, because glory and life can be achieved through struggle. And the first step in any campaign is to be resolved; then it is necessary to decide to break the sovereignty of global infidelity, particularly of the United States.

Whether or not we are in Mecca our hearts and souls are with Abraham in Mecca. Whether they slam the gates of Al-Madinah in our faces or open them to us, our love for the prophet will never be broken or shaken. We will pray facing the Ka'bah and we will die facing the Ka'bah. We thank the God of the Ka'bah that we have fostered the pillars of disavowal of the infidels in the blood of thousands upon thousands of martyrs from among our dear ones and that we have not waited for the feeble rulers of some Islamic or non-Islamic country to support our movement.

We are the time-honored victims of history; we are the deprived and the barefooted. We have nobody but God. Even if we are mutiliated a thousand times, we will not abandon our struggle against the tyrant.

The Islamic Republic of Iran thanks those free Muslims of the world who, despite political suppression, revealed the secrets of the crimes of the United States and the house of Al Sa'ud through conferences, interviews, and speeches and showed to the world that we were victims.

The Muslims of the world must know that so long as the balance of power in the world is not in their favor, the interests of foreigners will always take precedence over their interests, and that every day the great Satan or the Soviet Union will provoke some event on the pretext of safeguarding their interests. Indeed, if the Muslims fail to resolve their problems with the world devourers in a serious manner and if they fail to arrive at least at the borders of a big world power will they be left in peace?

At present if the United States totaliy ruins an Islamic country on the pretext of safeguarding its interests, who will block its way? Therefore, there is no alternative but to continue to struggle. We must smash the hands and the teeth of the superpowers, particularly the United States. And we must choose one of two alternatives—either matyrdom or victory, which we both regard as victory. And God willing, God will also confer on all Muslims the power to break the policies which the world devourers have imposed and the courage to build toward human greatness. May God guide all Muslims from the depths of deprivation to the peaks of glory.

Before the bittersweet incident of last year's hajj, some individuals did not fully comprehend Iran's philosophy insisting on the disavowal of infidelity march. They wondered and asked what could necessitate the march and shouts for struggle in a pilgrimage during such hot weather. And they wondered even if there were chants of disavowal of infidelity, how would arrogance suffer. Indeed, many simple-hearted individuals used to imagine that the so-called civilized world of the world devourers not only would tolerate such political problems, but would even allow their opponents to live and demonstrate and to march some more.

Their argument was based on the fact that in the so-called free countries of the West permits are given for marches. However, this point must be clarified: Those marches pose no threat to the superpowers and other powers. It is the marches in Mecca and Al-Madinah that entails the closure of the Arabian oil pumps. It is the marches of disavowal in Mecca and Al-Madinah that lead to the annihilation of the stooges of the Soviet Union and the United States. It is for this very reason that they prevent these marches through the collective massacre of free women and men. It is through this very disavowal of infideltiy that even the simple-hearted can understand they must not bow to the shrines of the Soviet Union and the United States.

The dear and brave nation of Iran must be assured that the Mecca incident was the source of great developments in the world of Islam, and that it will provide suitable ground for the eradication of corrupt regimes in the

Islamic countries and of the pseudoclerics. Though only 1 year has passed since the epic disavowal of infidelity, the perfume of the immaculate blood of our dear martyrs has engulfed the whole world. We can see its effects all over the world.

The epic of the people of Palestine is not a phenomenon that happened by chance. Who does the world believe has sung this epic? What has inspired the people of Palestine that fearlessly and with empty hands they resist the barbaric attacks of the Zionists? Is it only the message of patriotism which has created such a world full of strength? Do the fruits of resistance and light and hope fall into the laps of the Palestinians from the tree of the soldout politicians?

If that were the case, then for years they have made a living at the side of the Palestinians and in their name. There is no doubt that what is happening is the message that God is great. It is the very same cry with which our own nation of Iran drove the shah to despair, and in Jerusalem has done the same to the usurpers. It is the fruition of the same very slogan of disavowal which the Palestinian nation shouted along with the cries for the liberation of Jerusalem side by side with their Iranian sisters and brothers, as well as "Death to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel." The Palestinians have sacrificed their blood and been martyred in the same bed where the blood of our dear ones was shed.

Yes, the Palestinians have found their way through our path to disavowal. We saw how in this struggle the iron forts fell; how blood triumphed over the sword, faith defeated infidelity, and shouts defeated bullets; how the dream of the children of Israel to rule from the Nile to the Euphrates turned into a nightmare; how the bright star of Palestine was lit by our blessed call of "Neither East nor West." Today, just as vast activities are underway throughout the world to force us to compromise with infidelity, similar activities are underway to extinguish the flames of anger of the Muslim nation of Palestine. This is only one example of the progress of our revolution. Yet, those who believe in the principles of our Islamic Revolution all over the world are increasing. We regard them as the potential capitals of our revolution. There are also those who sign petitions supporting us with their blood and who accept wholeheartedly the invitation of the revolution. God willing, they will bring the whole world under their control.

Today the war has begun between right and wrong, between poverty and wealth, between the meek and the arrogant, and between the barefooted and the unfeeling affluent. I kiss the hand and arm of all those dear ones throughout the world who are shouldering the burden of struggle and who have decided to wage a holy war and to bring glory to the Muslims. I sincerely greet all the blossoms of freedom and perfection. I tell the dear and brave Iranian nation that God has exported the effects and blessings of your spirituality to the world and that your glittering hearts and eyes are the center of support for the deprived. The flames of your revolutionary hatred have horrified the leftist and rightist world devourers.

Of course, we all know that our country, has endured difficulties and hardship in conditions of war and revolution. Nobody claims that the deprived, poor, and weak classes, particularly the salaried class and the civil service, are not engulfed in economic problems. However, what occupies the minds of all our people above all else is the issue of safeguarding Islam and the principles of the revolution. The Iranian people have proved they can endure hunger and thirst, but they can never tolerate the defeat of the revolution or of its principles. The honorable Iranian nation has always resisted the fierce attacks of the world of infidelity against the principles of its revolution. There is no opportunity to mention them all here. However, has not the Iranian nation resisted the repeated crimes of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf—its military and intelligence support to Iraq, its attacks on oil platforms and ships and boats, and its downing of the passenger airliner?

Has the Iranian nation not resisted the diplomatic assault of the East and West and various political ploys at international forums? Has not the brave Iranian nation resisted the economic, propaganda, and psychological warfare and satanic attacks of Iraq on its cities? Has not the Iranian nation resisted Iraqi missile attacks on residential areas and repeated chemical bombings of Iran and Halajbah? Has not the dear Iranian nation resisted the conspiracy of the hypocrites and the liberals? Has not the Iranian nation resisted the money grubbing and gold hoarding activities of capitalists and the deception of those who pretend to be faithful? Were all these events and trends not plots to harm the principles of the revolution? Without the people each of these plots could have harmed the principles of the regime. However, we thank God for empowering the Iranian nation to live up to its mission with heads high, and to persevere.

Our dear nation, the true struggler for Islamic values, fully realizes that struggle is not compatible with seeking a comfortable life. Those who believe that there is no incompatibility between the struggle for independence and liberation of the deprived of the world on the one hand and capitalism and seeking a comfortable life on the other, do not understand struggle.

Those who believe that the capitalists and those who are well off and have no troubles will be awakened by suggestions, advice, and counsel and will join or help the strugglers for freedom are dreaming. Struggle and comfort, uprising and living comfortably, materialism and piety can never coexist. Only those who have felt the pain of deprivation, poverty, and weakness, the poor and the pious are the true creators of and participants in revolutions. We must concentrate all our efforts to maintain the fundamental policy of defending the oppressed through any means. Officials in charge of

revolutionary Iran must realize that a group of godless ones brands anyone who wishes to work for the poor and deprived and follow the road of Islam and the revolution as deviationist and communist in order to destroy the revolution.

We should not fear such accusations. We must remember God and concentrate all our abilities and efforts on pleasing him and aiding the poor and not be afraid of any accusation. In the United States and regimes of oppression there are individuals prepared to defeat the Islamic Revolution in any way. In the universities and seminaries those who portray themselves as holy—the danger of which I have repeatedly mentioned—are destroying the revolution and Islam from within with their tricks. In the guise of supporters of religion and rule of the jurisconsult, they describe everyone else as faithless. We must seek refuge in God from their harm. Furthermore, there are others who attack any cleric or ulema without exception and declare their Islam as American. They are following a dangerous road that, God forbid, will end in the defeat of the pure Islam of Muhammad.

To obtain the rights of the poor in society, we will strive until our last drop of blood. Today the world is thirsty for the culture of the pure Islam of Muhammad, and Muslims, within a great Islamic organization, will destroy the glory of the white and red palaces.

Today, Khomeyni has bared his chest to all the arrows of misfortune and calamitous events and, in front of all the artillery and missiles of the enemy and just like all lovers of martyrdom, is counting the days until achieving martyrdom.

Our war is one of ideology and does not recognize borders or geography. We must ensure the vast mobilization of the soldiers of Islam around the world in our ideological war. God willing, the great Iranian nation, through its material and moral support for the revolution, will compensate for the hardships of the war with the sweetness of the defeat of God's enemies in the world. What is sweeter than the fact that the great Iranian nation has struck the United States on the head like lightning? What is sweeter than the fact that the Iranian nation witnessed the collapse of the foundations of the oppressive monarchy and destroyed the very presence of the United States in the country?

What is sweeter than the fact that our dear people have uprooted dissent, nationalism, and eclectisism and, God willing, will taste its everlasting sweetness in the next world? This is not just for those who have gone to the battlefronts and have sacrificed their lives and become matyrs, but also those who have supported the battlefronts with their help and prayers. They have all benefited from the immense position of the strugglers and their great rewards. Oh, how lucky are these strugglers, these inheritors of Husayn, blessings be upon him.

The Americans must understand that martyrdom for God is not something that can be compared with victory or defeat in battle. Martyrdom is the epitome of service and existence in the spiritual world. We must not lower the value of martyrdom to such an extent that we say we liberated Khorramshahr or a few other cities as a result of the martyrdom of the children of Islam. This is the erroneous attitude of the nationalists. Our goal is much higher than this. The nationalist assumes that our goal is the implementation of the international goals of Islam in the world of poverty and hunger. We say that as long as there is infidelity and poletheism, there is struggle, and as long as there is struggle, we will be there.

We are not fighting anyone over towns or territory. We are determined to raise the glorious banner of "There is no God but God" on the heights of magnanimity and generosity. Therefore, O my army, IRGC, and mobilization corps children! O you popular forces, never talk about the loss of a position with sadness or talk about the capture of another with pride and happiness as these are insignificant compared with your goal, as the entire world is when compared with the next world.

The fathers, mothers, wives, and families of the martyrs, POW's, MIA's, and those disabled in the war must note that nothing has been taken away from the achievements of their children. Your children are beside the prophet and the pure imams. Victory or defeat makes no difference to them. Now is the time to guide the future generations. Tighten your belts, because nothing has changed. This is what God wants today. He wanted something different yesterday, and tomorrow, God willing, will be the day of victory for the forces of justice. We are prepared for whatever is the will of God because we follow God's decrees. This is why we want martyrdom, and because of this we will not accept the burden of slavery of anyone but God. Naturally, in order to carry out our duties, we are all honor-bound to do our best and carry out our duties and responsibilities with attention and in detail.

Everyone knows we did not start the war. We have only defended ourselves in order to ensure the continuation of Islam in the world. It is the innocent Iranian nation that has been the target of continuous attack of the world-devourers. The oppression has attacked us from all its political, military, economic, and cultural ambush points. Our Islamic Revolution has so far shown Satan's ambush points and traps to the world. The world-devourers, capitalists, and their allies expect us to witness the crushing of our youth and the trampling of our innocents, and yet not issue warnings.

It is our first duty and that of our Islamic Revolution to shout around the world: O, you who are sleep, O, you who are unaware, wake and look around you. You are living next to a den of wolves. Arise, for this is not a place for slumber. Shout, and engage in speedy action, for the hunters are waiting. The United States and the Soviet Union are waiting in ambush and will not leave you

alone until you are destroyed. Had the international mobilization of Muslims materialized, would anyone have dared engage in so much insult and aggression against the spiritual children of the prophet of God, God's peace and blessing be upon him and his kin?

One of the greatest sources of pride for our nation is that it confronted the greatest show of force, the deployment of U.S. and European warships in the Persian Gulf. I warn the United States and the Europeans that they should leave the Persian Gulf before it is too late, before they have sunk in the quagmire of death. It will not always be the case that our passenger aircraft are downed by your warships. The children of the revolution may sink your warships to the bottom of the Persian Gulf.

I address the governments and states of the region, particularly Arabia [Saudi Arabia] and Kuwait: All of you will be partners in the adventurism and crimes created by the United States. We have not yet engaged in any action that would engulf the entire region in blood and fire, making it totally unstable. However, Reagan's insane actions will certainly impose unexpected events and dangerous consequences on everyone. You can be sure you will be the losers in this new chapter. Do not degrade yourselves, your country, and your Islamic people this way in the face of the United States. If you do not have any religion, at least have some honor.

Thanks be to God, as the result of the blessings of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the doors of hope and light have been opened to all Muslims of the world; and the thunder and lightning emanating from its events will shower death and destruction on all the arrogant powers.

An important point which all of us should attend to and regard as the foundation and basis of our policies toward outsiders is to know how long and to what extent our enemies and the world devourers will tolerate us, and to what extent will they accept our independence and freedom. Most certainly they do not accept anything except the complete destruction of all our identities and our spiritual and divine values. According to the holy Koran, they will never give up fighting and struggling against you, until they can force you to renounce your religion. Whether we like it or not, the Zionists, the United States and the Soviet Union will harass us, so that they can sully our religious identity and our ideological honor.

Some hostile elements allege we are guilty of pursuing a policy of hatred and animosity in international organizations, and blame us for it. Through their unjustifiable expressions of concern and childish protest they say the Islamic Republic has become a source of animosity and has lost respect in the eyes of the East and the West and their agents. To this one should answer: When did the Third World nations and the Muslims, particularly Iran, have any respect and dignity in the eyes of the Easterners and the Westerners, which they have now lost?

Yes, if the Iranian nation abandons all its Islamic and revolutionary principles and if it destroys with its own hands the house of honor and dignity of the prophet and the immaculate imams, peace be upon them all, at that time it is possible that the world devourers might accept it as a weak, poor, and uncultured nation. However, provided they are the masters and we their servants, they are the superpowers and we are weak, then they are the masters and guardians and we are their slaves and the protectors of their interests—not an Iran with an Iranian and Islamic identity, but an Iran whose identity has been decided on by the United States and the Soviet Union, an Iran which might pull the chariot of U.S. or Soviet policies. Today all the afflictions and displeasures of the United States and the Soviet Union and the East and the West lie in the fact that the Iranian nation has not only released itself from their yoke, but it even invites others to release themselves from the domination of the tyrants.

If the limiting or elimination of destructive weapons from the world was accomplished with truth and sincerity, it would be desired by all the nations. However, this too is an old trick, and has recently been made clear through the remarks of the U.S. and Soviet leaders and the writings of their politicians; namely, that the recent comings and goings of the Eastern and Western leaders is to more tightly control the Third World and, in fact, to prevent the influence of barefooted and deprived people in the world of unlimited sovereignty of capitalists.

We should prepare ourselves to organize a powerful Islamic, human front with the same Islamic and revolutionary name and attributes of our revolution in the face of the united front of the East and the West, so that the overlordship and glory of the deprived and barefooted people of the world may be celebrated. Be sure that the Eastern and Western powers are the empty manifestations of the materialistic world, which are not worthy of mention compared with the eternity and everlasting nature of the world of spiritual values.

I openly announce that Iran will work with all its might for the revival of the Islamic identity of Muslims throughout the world. There is no reason for it not to invite the Muslims of the world to follow the principles of gaining power in the world, and no reason why it should not prevent the ambition and the search for superiority by the masters of wealth, power, and deceit. We should make plans to achieve the goals and interests of the wronged Iranian nation. We should make every effort, for the sake of the world's people to resolve Muslims' difficulties and problems, and also support the strugglers, the hungry, and the deprived. We should regard this as one of the principles of our foreign policy.

We announce that Iran will forever remain the supporter of and a refuge for the valiant Muslims of the world. Iran, as an invincible military fortress, will provide the means for the soldiers of Islam, and will familiarize them

with the ideological and moral bases of Islam, as well as the principles and methods of struggle against the systems of blasphemy and polytheism.

The acceptance of the resolution [598] was truly a very bitter and tragic issue for everyone, particularly for me. Up to a few days ago I believed in the methods of defense and the stances announced in the war. I saw in its implementation the interest of the system, the country, and the revolution. However, due to some incidents and factors which, for the time being I will refrain from elaborating on and which—God willing—will be made clear in the future, and in view of the opinion of all the high-ranking political and military experts of the country, whose commitment, sympathy and sincerity I trust, I agreed with the acceptance of the resolution and the cease-fire. At this juncture I regard it to be in the interest of the revolution and of the system. God knows that had it not been for the motive whereby all of us, our honor and credibility, should be sacrificed in the interests of Islam and the Muslims, I would never have agreed to this issue. Death and martyrdom would have been more bearable to me. What is to be done? We should all submit ourselves to the pleasure of Almighty God. Certainly the valiant and heroic Iranian nation has been and will remain this way.

I hereby express my thanks and appreciation to all my beloved children on the fronts of fire and blood, who, from the start of the war until now, have in some way endeavored and labored in connection with the war.

I call upon the entire Iranian nation to remain vigilant, patient, and steadfast. It is possible that in the future certain individuals may knowingly, or through ignorance, raise the question among the people as to what was the fruit of all the blood, martyrdom, and self-sacrifice. These people are surely unaware of the unseen worlds and of the philosophy of martyrdom. They do not know that for a person who has engaged in jihad for the sake of God's satisfaction, and who has surrendered himself to submission and devotion, events will in no way harm this person's eternal, everlasting, and exalted position.

To understand fully the value and the path of our martyrs we must cover a long distance. We must look for it in the passage of time and the history of the current revolution and of those to come.

The blood of the martyrs has definitely ensured the revolution and Islam. The blood of the martyrs has taught a permanent lesson of resistance to the people of the world. God knows that the way of matryrdom cannot be hidden. The nations and those to come will be the ones to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs. The immaculate dust of the martyrs will provide the resting place of those in love, the mystics, and will also provide the healing place for the free people. Happy are those who departed through martyrdom. Happy are those who lost their lives in this convoy of light. Happy are the mothers who raised these gems. O God, keep this book of martyrdom open to those who are willing; and do not deprive us of reaching it.

O God, our country and our nation are still at the beginning of the path of struggle; they need the torch of martyrdom. Please be the guardian of this shining lamp. Happy are you, the nation. Happy are you, women and men. Happy are the disabled, the prisoners of war and those missing in action and the great families of the martyrs. And how unhappy I am because I have survived and have drunk the poisonous chalice of accepting the resolution, and feel ashamed in front of the greatness and sacrifices of this great nation. Unhappy are those who were not in this convoy. Unhappy are those who have so far passed by this great event of martyrdom and war, and the great divine examination—those who have remained silent and indifferent, who have criticized or verbally attacked it.

Yes, yesterday was the day of divine trial. And tomorrow there wilil be another trial which is to come our way. And all of us have a day of yet greater accountability.

Those who during the past few years of struggle and war avoided performing this great duty of theirs—no matter what their reasons—and kept themselves, their lives and property and children and others from the fire of events must know for sure that they have avoided their divine duty. And they have suffered a great loss. They will feel sorry on the day of judgement. I once again tell all the people and the responsible authorities that they must keep the account of such people separate from the account of those who have crusaded on the path of God. They must not let these undeserved claimants of today and those shortsighted leaders of yesterday return to the scenes.

Whether I am in your midst or not, I bequeath and recommend to all of you not to allow the revolution to fall into the hands of those who are unqualified and alien. Do not let the torch-bearers of martyrdom and blood be forgotten in the course of your daily lives.

I strongly recommend you, the dear Iranian nation, to be on your guard. The acceptance of the resolution by the Islamic Republic of Iran does not mean that the war has been resolved. The propaganda weapon of the world devourers against us has been blunted through announcement of this decision. But one cannot foresee future events in definite and serious ways. The enemy has not yet abandoned his tricks. He may well continue the same aggresive ways by resorting to excuses. We must be prepared to repel possible aggression by the enemy. Our nation must not yet regard the issue as closed. Of course, we officially announce that our objective is not a new tactic in continuation of the war. It is not impossible that the enemy will follow up its attacks through these excuses. Our military forces must never be ignorant of the deception and tricks of the enemies.

Under any conditions the defensive strength of the country must be in the best positions. Our people, who during the long years of struggle have felt the dimensions of the hatred and ruthlessness and animosity of the enemies of God, must regard the danger of the invasion of the world devourers in different forms as more serious. Now, as in the past, all the military personnel, whether belonging to the Army, the IRGC, or the mobilization corps must continue their missions at the fronts to defend against the tricks of arrogance and Iraq.

Once we leave this stage of the revolution behind us by the same special way and regulations which are special to us, I will have recommendations for the next phase and construction of the country and the general policy of the regime and the revolution, which I shall talk about at an opportune time. But at this stage I demand most seriously of all speakers, authorities, and responsible people of the country and media and press directors to forego adventures and the creation of adventures. They must be on guard not to serve inadvertently as the tool of extreme thoughts and beliefs. They must rely on their common sense to stand alongside each other to watch the enemies.

During these days it is possible that many individuals may raise questions with why's and should-be's and should-not-be's; they may be motivated by their feelings. While in itself this is a beautiful thing, now is not the right time to attend to these queries. It is possible that those who until yesterday were taking positions against this regime, who used to talk of peace with the motive only of seeing the Iranian regime and government fall, today too may raise other deceptive words harboring the same objective. The lackeys of arrogance—those who until yesterday under the fake cover of peace stabbed the heart of the nation—also may well support the war. And the nationalists who lack culture may well begin their poisonous propaganda in order to waste the blood of the dear martyrs and to destroy the glory and honor of the people.

God willing, our dear nation, relying on farsightedness and intelligence, will rebuff all seditions.

I repeat that the acceptance of this issue is more lethal for me than poison; but I surrender to God's satisfaction. I have drunk this for the sake of God's satisfaction.

The point which I deem it necessary to remind you of is that, in accepting this resolution, the decision has been made only by the responsible authorities of Iran on their own—nobody else and no other country has had any part in this move.

O dear and honorable people of Iran; I regard each one of you as my own children and you know that I love you all and I know you. And you too know me. Under existing conditions what brought about this move was our divine duty. You know that I made a pact with you to fight to the last drop of blood and the last breath. I abandoned whatever I said before only for the sake of His blessing and satisfaction. If I had any dignity, I bargained with God. My dear ones, you know that I endeavored not to place my comfort before His satisfaction and your comfort. O God, You know that we do not intend to compromise with infidelity. O God, You know that the arrogant and world-devouring United States destroyed the flowers of the garden of Your mission. O God, in a world full of injustice, You are all our strength; we are alone and do not know anybody but You and have not wanted to know anybody but You. Please help us, as You are the best helper.

O God, compensate the bitterness of these days with the sweetness of the arrival of the Hidden Imam, our souls be sacrificed for him, and with our joining you.

My revolutionary children, you are not prepared for a moment to abandon your sacred pride. You must know that every moment of my life is to serve you. I know that it is hard for you. But then is it not hard for your old father? I know that for you martyrdom is sweeter than honey; but then is it not the same for this servant of yours? But please be patient, because God favors those who can be patient. Keep your revolutionary hatred and revenge in your chests. Look at your enemies with anger and hate. You must know that victory belongs to you. I stress: Never think that I am not aware of the affairs of the war or of those who are responsible. They enjoy my confidence. Do not blame them for the decision which they have adopted. For them, too, such a suggestion has been difficult and unpalatable. God willing, May He adorn us all with the grace of serving Him and attaining His satisfaction.

I advise the dear youth of the country, these immense godly capitals, these perfumed blossoms of the world of Islam, that they should value every moment of their sweet lives and prepare themselves for a scientific and active struggle until all the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution are achieved. I advise all officials and those in a position of responsibility to prepare the facilities for improving the moral, faith, scientific and artistic ideas of youth, help them until they reach the best values and innovations, and keep the spirit of independence and self sufficiency alive within them. Do not allow those teachers who, as a result of their contacts with and trips to the so-called civilized world, to criticize our youth who have recently been liberated from bondage and colonialism and—God forbid—create an idol of the progress and capabilities of foreigners, thus injecting the spirit of immitation and mendacity in their minds.

Instead of comparing ourselves with others we should pay attention to our own humanity, and keep the spirit of ability and the way of independance alive. Under the conditions of war and embargo we have managed a great deal of progress and invention. God willing, under better conditions, we will prepare the necessary grounds for the growth of abilities and research in all aspects. Scientific struggle for the youth is the reawakening of the spirit of curiosity and discovery of facts and truth. However,

their active struggle has taken form in the best stages of life, crusade, and martyrdom. Another point that I mention to the young—because of the extent of my devotion and admiration—is that they should use the presence of the clergy and the faithful ulema of Islam in the search for spiritual and other values. Never and under no circumstance consider yourself free from the need for their guidance and cooperation.

The struggling clergy, who are faithful to Islam, have, in the course of history and under the harshest of conditions, continously endeavored to train and guide the generations with a heart full of hope, love, and kindness, and have always been the leaders and the shield that has taken the blight aimed at the people. They were hanged, and suffered many sentences. They went to prison and suffered exile and imprisonment; more importantly they were the target of accusations and sneers. Under circumstances when many of the intellectuals had reached hopelessness in the struggle against idolatry, they returned the spirit of hope and life to people, and defended the true honor of people. Currently they are side by side with the people in every trench, whether the frontlines of battle, or other positions, and have offered lofty martyrs in every calamity and sad incident.

In no country or revolution—except for the revolution of the prophet's revelation and divine mission, and the life of the imams of the Lord, blessings be upon them and the Islamic revolution of Iran- - do we see a case where the leaders of the revolution have been such targets of attacks and animosity. This is because of the truthfullness and trustworthiness existing in the faithful ulema of Islam. Undertaking responsibilities in a country that is faced with embargoes, as well as economic, political, and military problems, is difficult. Of course, the faithful clergy of our country must prepare themselves for more sacrifice, and when necessary use their honor and credit to safeguard the honor of Islam, and serve the deprived and the barefooted. It is worthy of praise that the zealous and brave Iranian nation values its true servants and summerizes the philosophy of its love and devotion to this holy institution in one word. The faitfhul ulema and clergy of Islam have never committed any treachery against the goals, beliefs, aims and Islamic ideals of the nation, nor will they.

Of course it is necessary to mention that in all my writings and statements, whenever I have mentioned the clergy and praised them, my intention has been the pure, faithful and combatant clergy since there are impure and unfaithful elements in any group. The puppet clergy do more harm than any other impure individual, and this class of clergy have always been the target of the curse of God, his prophet, and people. The real blows against this revolution have always been dealt by these pseudo-faithful, religion-selling puppet clergy who continue to deal such blows. Our faithful clergy have always hated and shunned these uncultured ones.

I say clearly that if the nationalists had been in control they would have stretched their arm of collusion and humility toward the enemies in the face of difficulties and problems; in order to free themselves from the daily political pressure would have broken every chalice of patience and resistance and would have turned their back on all their claimed national and patriotic promises and values. No one should believe that we do not know how to come to terms with the world-devourers.

However, when would the servants of Islam commit treason against their nation? Of course, we are certain that under these conditions too, those who have a long history of animosity toward the pure clergy and who cannot hide their jealousy or inferiorities will make them the target of insults. However, what is not part of the destiny of the true clergy is collusion and surrender to infidelity and polytheism. If they were to cut us piece by piece, if they were to hang us, if they were to burn us alive, if they were to take our wives, children, and our wealth, and plunder them in front of us we would never sign a peace with infidelity and polytheism.

The ulema and clergy, God willing, are familiar with all the aspects and dimensions of their responsibility. However, just to bring it to attention and stress it, I state that today when most of the youth and intellectuals are feeling that they can state their views on various Islamic issues, due to the free atmosphere of our Islamic homeland, listen to them with open arms and a happy face and if they are on the wrong road show them the true Islamic road with friendship and kindness.

You should pay attention to the fact that it is not possible to ignore their spiritual and mystic emotions. One cannot stamp their writings as being wrong and distorted and sow the seeds of doubt and uncertainty about everything. Those who raise such issues these days, obviously care about Islam and guiding the Muslims, otherwise they would not bother to do so and create problems for themselves. They believe that Islam's stances on different issues is their own. Instead of scolding them and pushing them aside, we should approach them with a fatherly and loving attitude. Even if they do not accept it, we should not lose hope, otherwise, God forbid, they will fall in the trap of the liberals, nationalists, the left or the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and this sin will not be less than chaff [elteqat]. [sentence as heard] We can only have a hopeful future for the country and for the destinymakers when we value their judgment on various issues and ignore their small errors and mistakes and are fully conversant with all the techniques and ways of correctly teaching and training them.

The culture of the universities and places other than seminaries is such that they are more familiar with experiencing realities other than the culture of philosophy. We should combine these two cultures, reduce

distances, and combine the universities and seminaries in order to expand the scenario for the expansion and amplification of Islamic ideology.

The other point that I consider most important for the success of the clergy and their influence in the Islamic societies is the value of their activities and their piety.

Not only should such values not be forgotten today, but in fact they should receive more attention than the past. Nothing is uglier than materialism in the clergy, and no instrument can soil the clergy more than materialism. It may be that clever enemies or unaware friends may want to divert them from their course of piety through unnecessary concern. Through animosity or because of lack of information some may accuse the clergy of supporting capitalism or the capitalists. Under these sensitive and destiny-making conditions when the clergy is in charge of national affairs and the danger of misuse of the position of the clergy by others is a real one, one must watch one's activities closely since some people from political organizations and societies or other organizations, with a very Islamic face may want to harm their credibility and honor and, in addition to promoting their own interests, even put the clergy at each others' throats.

Of course, the clergy should never avoid or abandon the scene as a result of propaganda by others in supporting the deprived and the poor, since anyone who avoids this has avoided Islamic social justice. In all circumstances we must consider this our great responsibility. If we neglect this we have committed treachery against Islam and the Muslims.

In conclusion, I thank and praise the holy God who has given this nation his infinite blessings and sincerely ask the holy prophet of God—may my soul be sacrificed for him—to aid and guide us on our road and to our goal. May God grant the families of martyrs patience and reward them, and grant the wounded and the disabled health and return the POW's and MIA's to their homeland. O Lord, we beseech you to grant us what is in the interest of Islam and the Muslims. You are the one who responds to our call. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and benediction be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 29/4/67 [20 Jul 1988]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis 21 Jul

LD2107133788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the armed forces, at today's Majlis open session delivered a speech about the important and historic message of Imam Khomeyni issued yesterday. We begin our news report with parts of the speech delivered by Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The historic, remarkable, and great message of his excellency the imam of the ummah took our society back to the early revolutionary days. One wholeheartedly and spontaneously bows to the very lofty aspirations molded in such beautiful and easily understood terms for all strata of the people. He added: The youthful and fervent spirit seen in all phrases of the message, as well as its awareness, wisdom, and competence, assures one that such words and writings cannot emanate from ordinary and common human beings.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Yesterday, as I was listening to the message of the imam of the ummah I began to cry uncontrollably. I felt humble and abject in the presence of such a lofty spirit. No doubt many others felt the same. The acting commander in chief noted the brave decision of the imam of the ummah in accepting the UN Security Council resolution: Time is needed to comprehend the nature of the decision made by his holiness and why a sudden decision was made to accept and bring about such a turn in the great movement in such a manner and in a direction which appears not to be in line with our earlier direction. He said: Right now, our enemies are clearly disarmed, and no one believes that the Iraqi Ba'thists are seeking peace and that revolutionary Iran is waging war. The world is so well aware of this issue that even the simplest people are not ready to believe revolutionary Iran is a warmonger. They do not believe that the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom have come to this region to establish peace.

The acting commander in chief pointed out: Today, we adopted a decisive position, and even if our enemies wish to pursue the war, we have already issued an ultimatum here and abroad. No hypocrite, liberal, or comfort-seeking capitalist or even a deceived person in this country can wonder about our hardened obstinacy and disregard of calls for peace.

The Majlis speaker added: The day that people see for themselves the saber-rattling by the insolent and careless enemy of Islam with his unquenchable thirst for the total destruction of Islam, the general call to rush to the fronts and utilize all resources of the country for the war effort and enduring any hardship for the sake of war and defense by the people will be acceptable. On that day, calls for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran, if they take root, will be considered a fiasco and an act of oppression, not a peaceful move.

He affirmed: Following the wise and caefully considered decision by the imam of the ummah under the present circumstances, it is now our turn to fulfill our duty without wondering about ifs and buts in saving the society from differences, crisis, and turmoil.

The Majlis speaker pointed out: We must be vigilant that a grudge is not taken as sincerity. The imam's wishes for social justice, unity, and decisive moves against the arrogant powers in preserving the spirit of the revolution must be sincerely pursued without ambition, opportunism, or factionalism.

The Majlis speaker pointed out: The Majlis deputies are among those addressed by the imam, and I heard that one of the brothers is thinking of turning the clauses of the imam's message into law. I see this as a befitting task, but of course it requires careful study.

The acting commander in chief stated: If the message of the imam is to be carried out with sincerity, we need unity and alliance. The existence of opportunism—as one specific faction upholds the imam's words while another does not—will cause much harm. God willing, we will continue to serve in unity and harmony in order to implement this carefully drawn charter of the revolution, in the wake of the very desirable gift of a charter last year.

Continuing with his speech, the acting commander in chief asked the Islamic fighters and the nation to maintain their awareness in the present conditions. He said: The main issue of the message of the imam is a warning for the nation and the fighters. Our fighters are well-aware that our enemy will not refrain from evil deeds and may even contemplate the idea it can cause more evil. We must all be vigilant and consider that the slightest carelessness or weakness at the fronts or behind them before we reach a secure position will be very dangerous for us.

Reaffirming the point made in a part of the imam's message that the acceptance of the resolution was not a tactical move, but an all-round decision, he said: Meanwhile, knowing the enemy as we do, we must not be taken unawares. God willing, the Islamic fighters will remain vigilant.

In conclusion, the Majlis speaker offered his condolences to the families of the victims of the bloody tragedy in Mecca.

Further on Acceptance of UN Resolution

Mahallati Rejects Direct Talks

JN2007205288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2028 GMT 20 Jul 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In an urgent dispatch from New York, AFP says that Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, Iran's UN representative, rejected a short while ago Baghdad's proposal to hold direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran. This propsal came in Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz' letter which contains five points. Mahallati said: We cooperate with the UN secretary general for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, and the Iraqi plan has nothing to do with this resolution. He added: We object to conducting face-to-face negotiations.

UN Cease-Fire Team Announced

LD2007200488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] According to a REUTER report, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced today that he will be sending a delegation to Iran and Iraq in order to work out the details of a rapid cease-fire applied to sea, land, and air as determined in Resolution No 598. He added that he has asked the governments of Iran and Iraq to fully cooperate with the UN delegation.

Proposal on UN Team Accepted

NC2107055088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Iran and Iraq have announced their acceptance of the UN secretary general's proposal to send UN delegations of experts to Tehran and Baghdad to study matters pertaining to the cease-fire.

Perez de Cuellar Letter

LD2107085388 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 21, IRNA—UN secretary general in an urgent letter to Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday night said that he is to send technical teams to both Tehran and Baghdad in order to make preparations for establishment of ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war.

In his letter marked "Most Immediate" Perez de Cuellar said that he had consulted with Iran's representative to the UN in New York and made neccesary preparations for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598.

"In the meantime, in the light of these consultations and in order to bring forward the process of implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, I am making preparations to dispatch immediately to Iran and Iraq a United Nations technical time [as received] to work out on an urgent basis with the authorities of implementation the immediate ceasefire called for in the resolution," said the message.

It added that the team will be accompanied by a senior political adviser and will start consultations that should not extend for more than one week or so.

Perez de Cuellar expressed the hope that the efforts will put him in a position as to promptly announce a D-Day for the commencement of implementation of the resolution.

On the D-Day he said the cease-fire on land, air and sea will come to effect upon which a United Nations observers team will be sent to observe the process followed by withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized borders. In this date, it added, he would announce the following:

Dates for the beginning and completion of the withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized boundaries,

A date for the beginning and conclusion of the release and repatriation of the prisoners of war,

A date for the beginning of negotiations foreseen with Iran and Iraq with a view to achieving a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of all outstanding issues acceptable to both sides,

A date for the establishment of the impartial body of inquiry into the responsibility for the conflict, and

Some further proposals pertaining to the setting-up of the machinery called for in Paragraph 7 and 8 of the resolution.

"In these circumstances, I have made a public appeal to all concerned to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any act military or otherwise, that might endanger my efforts and in particular, the work of the technical team and exacerbate the situation," added the message.

Perez de Cuellar stated that all the above measures are taken with the support of the Security Council members.

The Islamic Republic of Iran last Monday announced that it has accepted the Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire and subsequently Imam Khomeyni in a historic message to the nation Wednesday said that the move was taken in order to safeguard interests of Islam and the country.

Velayati Comments on UN Resolution, Airbus

LD2107052188 Tehran IRNA in English 0516 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Mashhad, July 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Wednesday that acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraqi-imposed war does not mean end of the struggle against world arrogance.

Addressing a group of students he said decision on ending the war lies within the authority of the leader.

More on Iran's Monday acceptance of the resolution he said it has has brought about several positive consequences for the Islamic Republic of Iran. "In the first place Iraq's allies could no longer go ahead with their lavish support for the Baghdad regime on the grounds that Iran is for continuing the war."

Moreover, the move has silenced the poisonous propaganda of world arrogance against Iran in connection with the war, he added.

On U.S. downing of the Iranian passenger plane on July 3, he said that the objective behind it was to provide a ground for the U.S. to pull out of the Persian Gulf with dignity.

He continued to say that the number of ships attacks in the region after the U.S. moved in to the Persian Gulf is twice the number of ships attacked before that.

More on downing of the plane which claimed lives of all the 290 on board he said the U.S. did not want to see much publicity by Iran over the incident but failed in this respect.

Khamene'i on Remembrance of Hajj 'Massacre'

LD2007162988 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—July 31, 1987 (6th Dulheggia) will go down in history as a day on which lackeys of global arrogance committed the most barbaric crime against the Muslim people in Mecca during the hajj pilgrimage, President Khamene'i said today.

The president who was presiding over a cabinet session here, said "we should never forget the massacre of pilgrims in our struggle with the rapacious puppets of global arrogance."

The bitter experience (massacre of pilgrims) was not merely a political issue, that's why the Iranian people should keep alive its memories down centuries, said the president.

The regime ruling Hijaz massacred more than 400 hajj pilgrims—mostly Iranians—and injured thousands of others, during the 'immunity from pagans' rally in Mecca on July 31, 1987.

Meanwhile, the cabinet reviewed developments in the war fronts and recent Iraqi air raids against Iran with regard to the Islamic Republic's formal acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, and accordingly made some decisions.

Musavi Presents Cabinet List to Majlis Speaker

LD2107073988 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today in a letter to Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented a list of 21 ministers of his cabinet which includes no new faces.

The letter was read in the open session of the Majlis. Three ministries of energy, construction jihad and commerce have remained vacant.

Deputies are to debated over the issue and cast their votes.

Construction Minister Resigns

LD2107101488 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Thursday accepted resignation of Minister of Construction Jihad Bijan Namdar Zangeneh. Musavi praised services of Zangeneh and said his efforts in the ministry were outstanding.

In the list of ministers presented to the Majlis today by Musavi the Construction Jihad Ministry is among the three ministers which are still vacant.

USSR's Vorontsov Meets With Larijani

LD2007173788 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here Wednesday at the head of a delegation and was welcomed by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Upon his arrival, Vorontsov announced his country's willingness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Soviet official expressed hope that the recent stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran—acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598—would be a prelude for withdrawal of foreign forces from the region.

Vorontsov last visited Iran on Nov. 1st 1987 and held talks with Foreign Ministry authorities on regional issues and Tehran-Moscow cooperation in political, economic and technical fields.

Volunteer Forces Leave Naqadeh for Fronts

LD1907181988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] In continuation of departure of popular forces for the battlefronts, this morning a group of redispatch volunteer forces and specialist forces left Naqadeh for the battlefront under the banner of the battalion of "His Holiness the Prophet, Blessings Be Upon Him and All His Scion."

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Sites in Northeast Bombed

LD2007160988 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters today flew four combat sorties in northeastern Iraq, heavily bombing Dukan Dam installations and enemy troop and armoured unit concentrations in the Hajj 'Umran theater.

A joint staff communique, announcing the above, reported here Wednesday that all fighter-bombers returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing missions which took place at 05:30, 08:10, 09:50 and 11:20 hours local time (02:00, 04:40, 06:20 and 07:50 GMT).

Today's bombing of Iraqi economic and military targets was carried out in retaliation for yesterday's enemy air attacks on some industrial units in southern Iran, the communique concluded.

Communique No 3,269

LD2007173188 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—Iranian fighter-bombers in seven separate sorties from 05:30 to 16:10 hours local time (02:00-12:40 hrs GMT) Wednesday heavily pounded Iraq's Dukan Dam installations and enemy positions, strongholds, and troops concentration sites in Hajj 'Umran operational theater, northwestern fronts.

The 3269th Joint Staff communique, announcing the above here today added that all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial losses and casualties upon the enemy.

On Tuesday, Iran's naval units, controlled movement of oil tankers and commercial ships in the southern waters.

Exchange of fire and sporadic engagements continued between the enemy forces and Iranian Muslim combatants in Hajj 'Umran and Mehran operational regions Tuesday, said the communique adding that the clashes were still going on in some of these areas.

In Chazabeh region and east of Basra, southern sector, exchange of artillery fire continued, raging with more intensity in Zayd region. Several Iraqi patrol units were suppressed by Iranian forces, and fled with some casualties.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces' heavy artillery fire destroyed three Iraqi bunkers and a vehicle, killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy forces, concluded the communique.

Iraq Launches Operation in West

LD2007161988 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—Iraqi forces attacked positions of Muslim combatants in Mehran and Piranshahr (Ilam and W. Azarbayjan Provinces), western fronts Tuesday night.

The new spate of Iraq aggression seems to be Baghdad's response to Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, and belies the regime's so-called claims for ceasefire and peace. A bare 24 hours after Iran's historic decision Monday, Iraqi warplanes had yesterday raided the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni.

This is while the Security Council has called for maintaining self-restraint to help the U.N. to follow up Resolution 598, after Iran's formal acceptance.

Military sources reported that the Muslim combatants suppressed enemy forces inflicting heavy damages on their military equipment and killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi troops.

In another development, Iraqi fighters bombed an industrial unit in Khuzestan Province this morning inflicting damages on it.

Sar Dasht Area Bombing Kills 1

LD2107091588 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 21, IRNA—One civilian was martyred and two others were injured in the Iraqi shelling of Sar Dasht villages Thursday morning. In shelling of villages of Denaran, Sanjveh [placenames as received] and Eslamabad five homes were also destroyed.

Pakistan

President Comments on Assembly Elections

BK2007162488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The National Assembly and the provincial assembly elections will be held on Wednesday, 16 November, this year. This was announced by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq while addressing a special session of the Senate in Islamabad today. He said:

[Begin recording] The government has decided that elections for the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies will be held, God willing, this year—on the same day—on Wednesday, 16 November. [applause] If the Election Commission feels that due to certain administrative requirements, elections to the National Assembly and provincial assemblies should not be held on the same day, then the provincial assembly elections will be held 2 or 3 days after the National Assembly elections. But our efforts will be to hold both elections on the same day.

I have directed the Election Commission to complete delimitation of new constituencies immediately and make arrangements for holding the elections as soon as possible so that the general elections are held in time in accordance with today's announcement.

In the end I want to assure this house, and the entire nation through this house, that according to my announcements today, the national and provincial assembly elections will, God willing, be held on the fixed date in a very free, fair, and impartial manner. [end recording]

The president explained the constitutional provisions on holding elections after dissolution of the assemblies. He said that in his opinion, the thrust of relevant provisions in the Constitution is very clear on holding elections as soon as possible. He said he is fully aware of the importance of the Constitution and he would try to ensure that every step he takes is in consonance with the constitutional requirement. The president said that according to the spirit and basic requirements of the Constitution, it was his desire to hold elections in the 3 months following dissolution of the National Assembly. But, unfortunately, it was not possible to do so for various reasons.

The president said one of the reasons was that the elections might have coincided with Muharram [Muslim religious period], the first 10 days of which fall in the last 2 weeks of August. Temperaments being what they are in Muharram, holding elections at such a time is tantamount to worsening the situation.

The president said another reason is that the rainy season occurs in August and most of the country is usually affected by floods and hot, humid weather. Also, in the past, elections were never held during this season.

The president said the third reason is that some 80,000 to 90,000 Pakistanis are presently in the holy land [Mecca] for haj and most of them would like to exercise their right of franchise; some may even want to contest elections. It would not be justifiable to ignore such a large chunk of the population on such an occasion.

The president said the fourth and most important reason is related to the redistribution of seats in the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies and new delimitations of constituencies on the basis of the latest census, as required by the Constitution. He pointed out that there has been a considerable population migration as well as increase or decrease in population between the 1972 and 1981 census. There have also been administrative changes and the creation of new divisions and districts in the country.

It has, therefore, become imperative to redistribute the seats of various provinces, federally administered tribal areas, and Islamabad capital territory in the National Assembly on the basis of the 1981 census and to delimit the constituencies afresh. Similar changes will be necessary for the provincial constituencies.

The president said that although 6 to 9 months are required for new delimitation of the constituencies, on his insistence the Election Commission has agreed to complete all arrangements within 3 to 4 months by working day and night.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq referred to the 1985 elections and local bodies elections at various levels, which were fair by all means and were acknowledged at home and abroad. He expressed hope that, in the same manner, the November elections will also prove to be a milestone. He prayed that the the country will pass this test successfully and a new era of stablity, progress, and prosperity will be ushered into the country and the nation due to the elections.

He said the nation has great expectations for the Senate and its members. They should advise the people as to what kind of candidates they should elect in the forthcoming elections. Until formation of the new National Assembly, the Senate, which is the highest elected forum and the upper house of the Parliament, should guide him and the caretaker government in discharging the functions of an interim government. They should make the Senate so effective and useful that other legislative institutions would feel proud to follow their example.

Praising the Senate's performance in the past 3 and ½ years, the president said it can feel genuinely proud of its decisions. He congratulated those who tabled privilege motions and spoke on the action of 29 May [dissolution of the National Assembly] and said they made well reasoned, balanced, and effective speeches on this important subject.

The president asked the senators to set an example of cleanliness for others. He regretted that whatever he stated about irregularities in this connection had hurt the feelings of some people. He said he did not do this intentionally. He emphatically said that we have to struggle for our genuine rights, but others should not be affected by this. We should practice politics, but it should be clean. He said some details in this connection will be presented before the house soon.

The senators welcomed the announcement of the date of elections by thumping their desks. After the president's speech, the special senate session was adjourned. The regular session of the house will he held tomorrow morning.

Officials Welcome Announcement

BK2107024488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] The President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's announcement about the holding of elections on 16 November this year has been widely welcomed by the people. It has been described as a step forward in the best interests of the nation, which will strengthen the democratic process in the country. Those welcoming the announcement also said that the president has fulfilled the promise he had made in his speech on 29 May this year.

The names of those who have welcomed the president's announcement regarding the date of general elections are as follows: Federal Industries Minister Chaudhury Shujat Hussain; Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Elahi Bux Sumro; Minister for Culture and Tourism Malik Faridullah Khan; Food and Agriculture Minister Sartaj Aziz; Minister of State for Communication Sardar Fateh Mohammad Mohammad Hasani; Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan; the NWFP acting chief minister and senator, retired Lieutenant General Fazle Haq; and Senators Mukhtar Ahmad Khan, Sardar Yusuf Mazhari, Kazi Abdul Latif Javed Jabbar, Malik Sadullah Khan, Syed Abbas Shah, Khan Abdullah Khan Rokri, Sheikh Ali Ahmad, and Salim Saifullah Khan.

Junejo Criticizes President for Delaying Elections

BK2007162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Junejo has criticized President Zia for delaying the elections and termed it as a violation of the constitutional provisions. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, Mr Junejo said it is only delaying tactics, and asserted that under the law, elections must be held on a party basis.